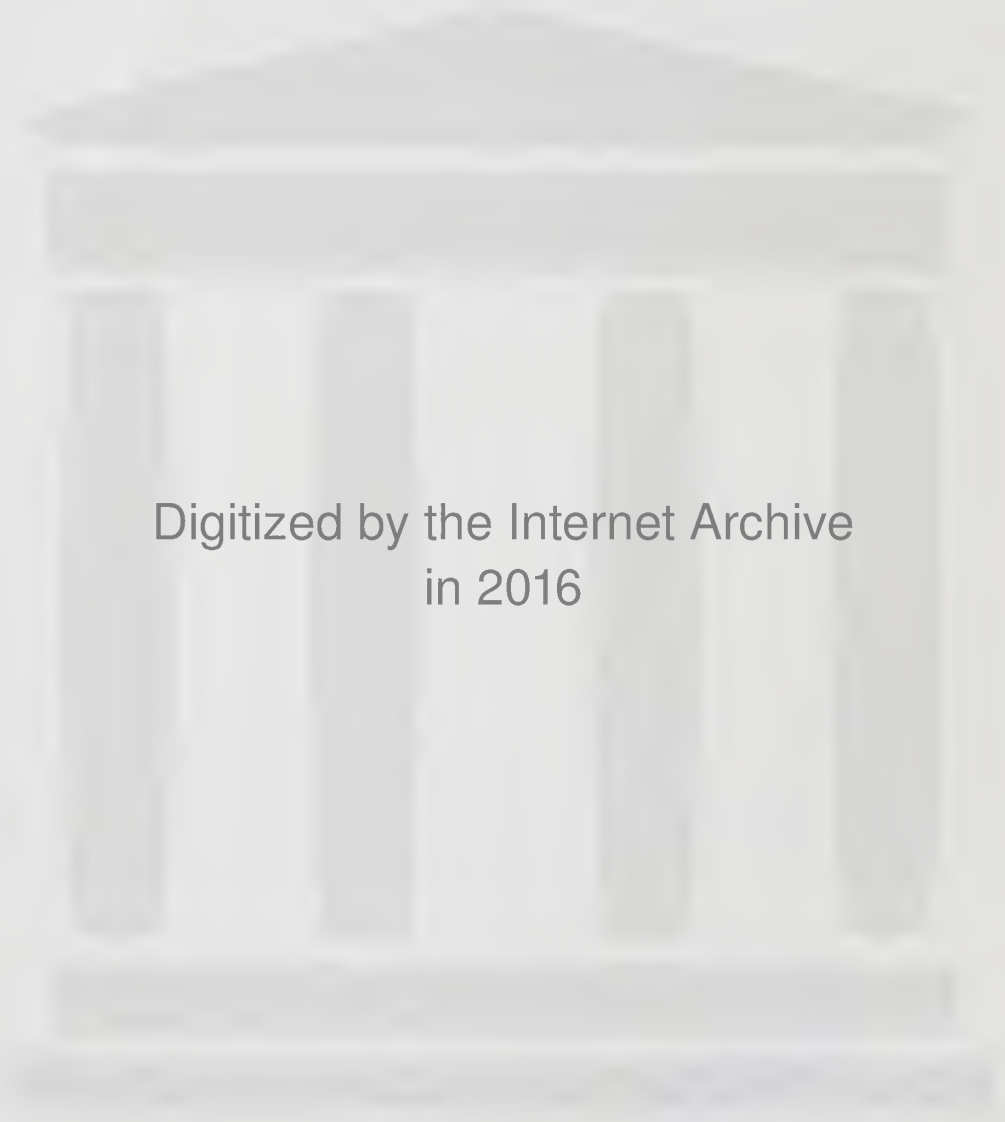
METROPOLITAN MOVIES

by Denys Wortman



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METROPOLITAN MOVIES

by

Denys Wortman

F. T. Kolars and Company
One Sheridan Square
New York

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An Interpreter of Manhattan

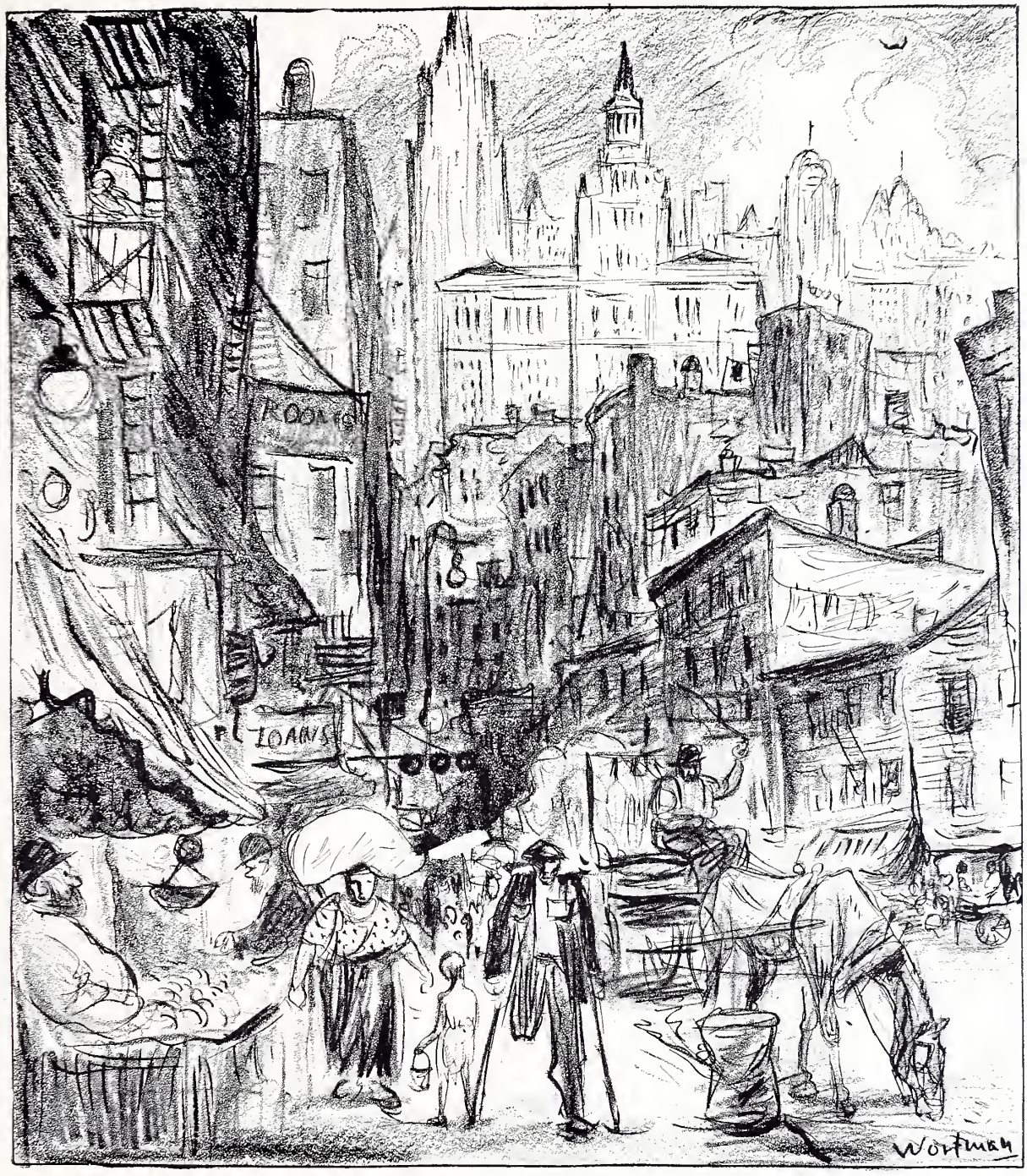
For over two years now, those of us who dwell in New York have been seeing in the *World* every day a cartoon depicting some phase of the great honeycomb which is our city. Personally, I have watched for the work of Wortman as I have watched for new "features." He has made breakfast a delight and the burdens of the day a little easier to bear. Here, it seems to me, is a man with vision and philosophy—a poet with pity and humor in his heart, who happens to express himself in terms of drawing rather than in terms of flowing words. Loving Manhattan as I do, having lived in its maze all my life, I have been struck with the power of these pictures, their great humanity, their unerring sense of the pathos, as well as the guttersnipe humor of our big, throbbing town.

Has it ever occurred to you that humor and tears are closely allied? If one laughs too much, one weeps; and conversely, if one weeps too much, one laughs. The dividing line between the two emotions is but a hair's breadth. There are peril and despair in New York; but around the next corner there may be unbridled mirth. It is this kaleidoscopic quality of what is at once the ugliest and the most beautiful city on earth which gives it the radiance and wonder we all recognize, if we have even a touch of imagination.

Wortman has the seeing eye, the feeling heart. The pain in our streets is no less real to him than their hurdy-gurdy laughter. He blends the two. He dips beneath the surface, and extracts the best and the worst of us. He reveals the pulsating town as it is, and as it always will be. Our salesgirls, our gamins, our park-bench crowds, our flappers, our rich and our poor are the materials for his robust, kindly philosophy. He is never bitter. He is always just. He takes Manhattan at its true worth, and gets it upon paper through the magic of his pencil. He is not merely a "funny" man. Like all great humorists, he is also a great philosopher.

It is good to have so many of his drawings finally gathered together between the covers of a volume; and thousands of Manhattanites, as well as those who live elsewhere, will be grateful to him—grateful to this understanding artist who interprets our thrilling city to us day by day.

CHARLES HANSON TOWNE

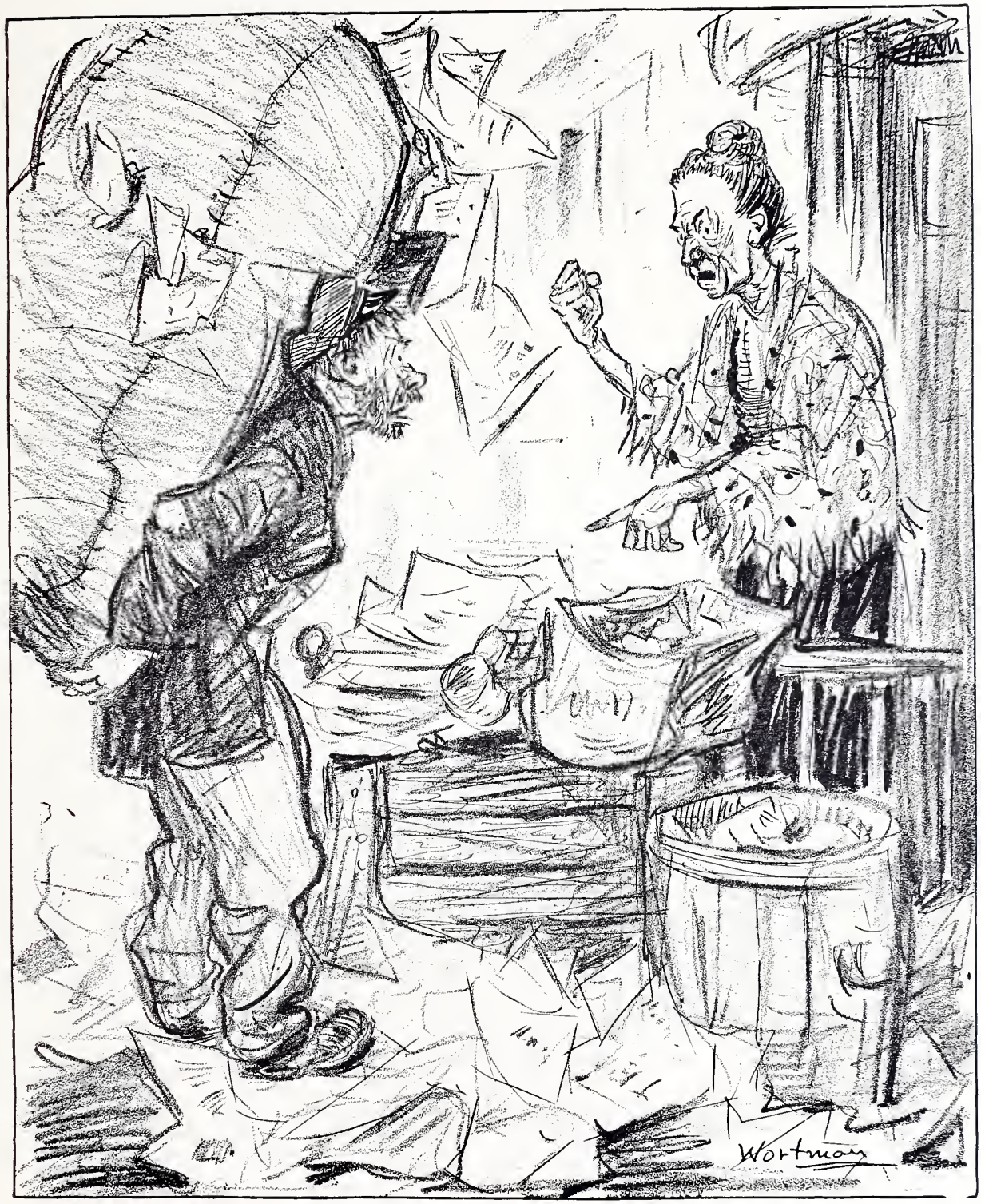


Behind the Skyline.

The girl who left home because she didn't want to help her mother wash the dishes.

The Gleaners.

"I'm sorry to say we've got to cut down expenses."



The End of the Argument.
"Woman, all I gotta say is if you was a lady you wouldn't even be talkin' wit' me."

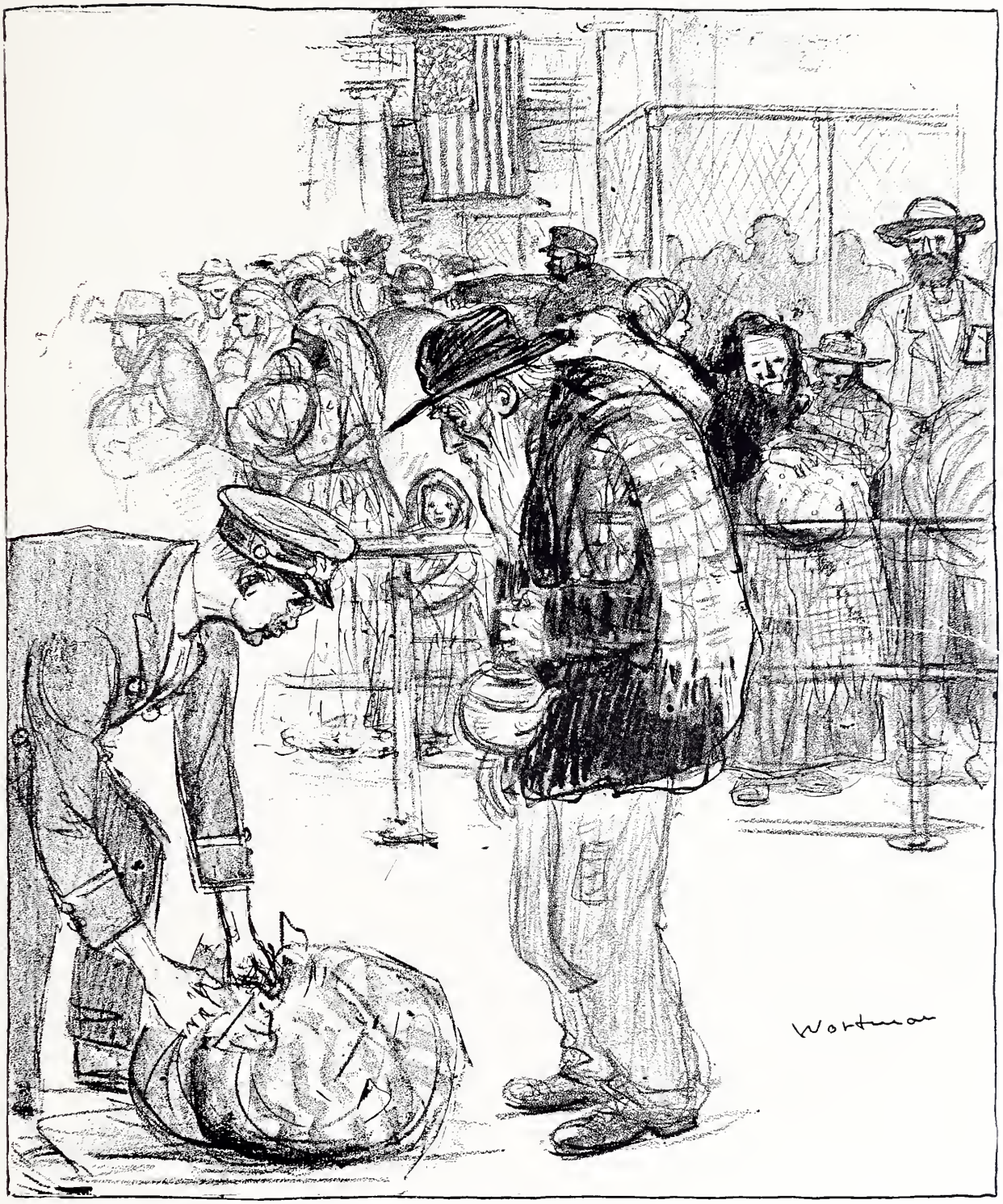
After the Ball Is Over.

"You've got my seat."
"Gwan, this seat's been in the family for years."

"I'm a tellin' yer. Yer'll never succeed in this business unless yer tend to yer job."

"Oh, Mrs. Smith! Fire Inspector's coming down the street."

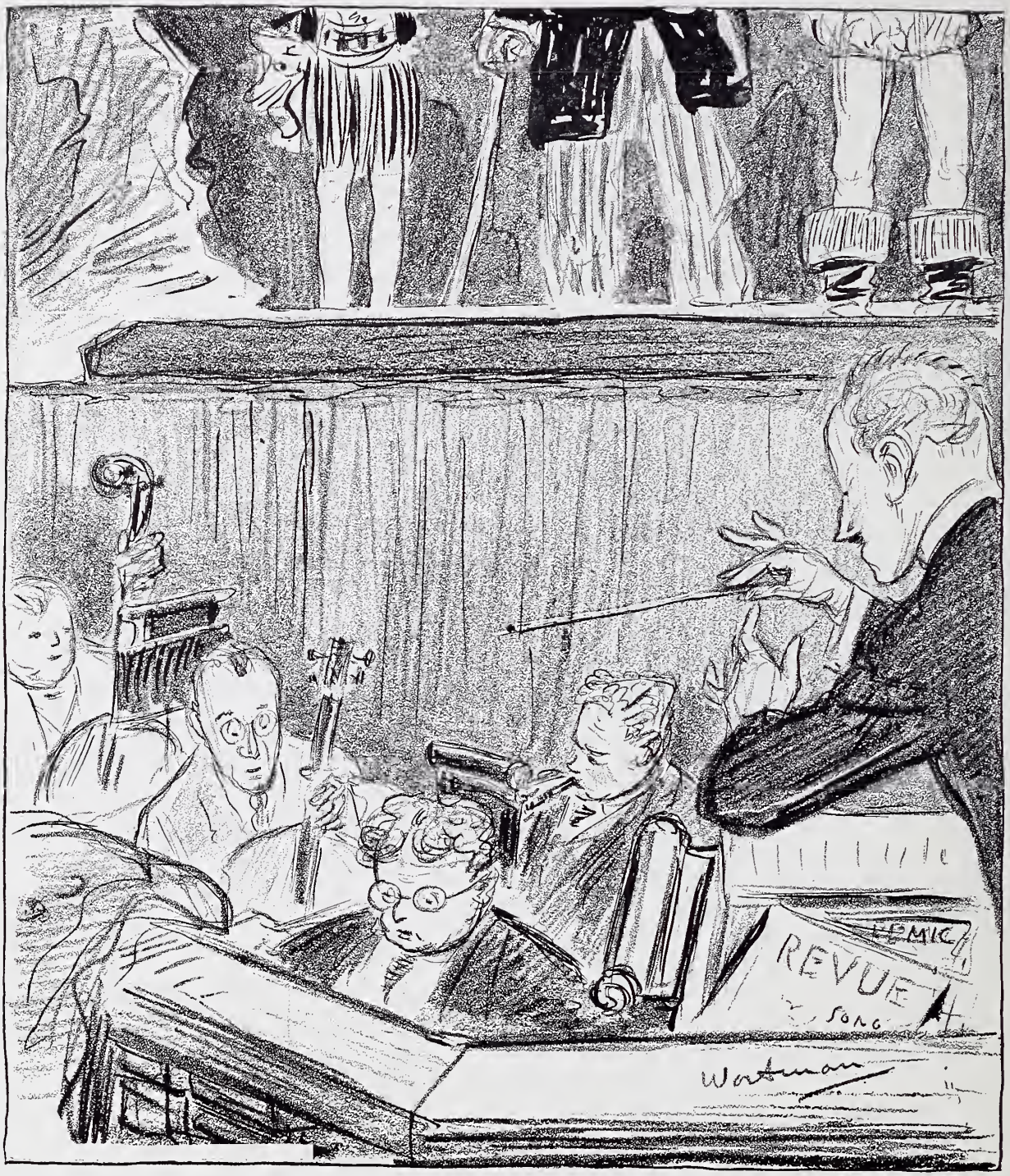
"As soon as I seen you on the floor I says: Thet's the girl I'm gonna take home to-night."



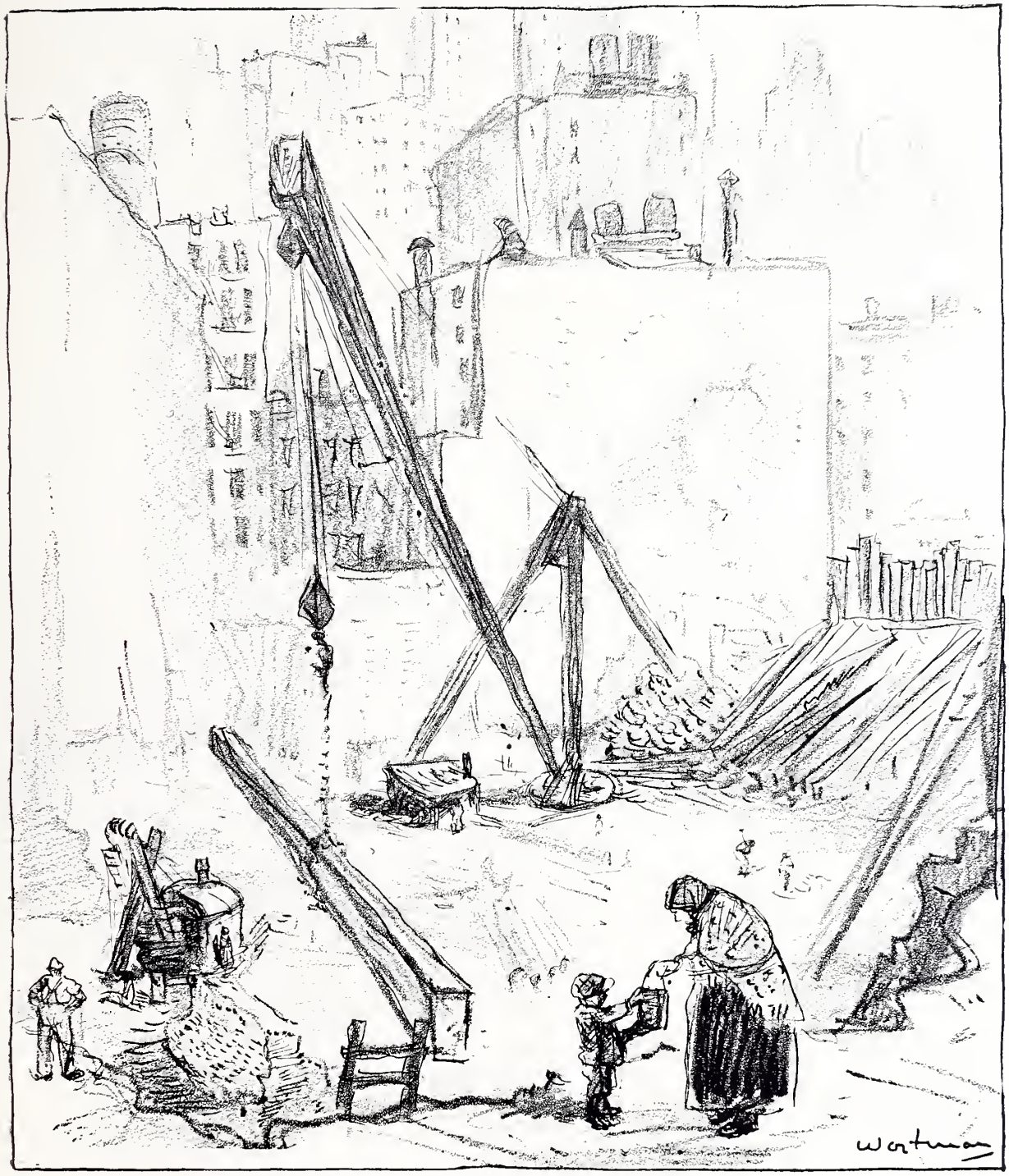
"Any jewels, tapestries; any cigars or liquors?"

"They say he's tight, but believe me, when he goes out with me he spends."

"Hey, d'y tink dis is de free public libery?"



The 1,000th performance, and the only men in the city who haven't seen the show yet.

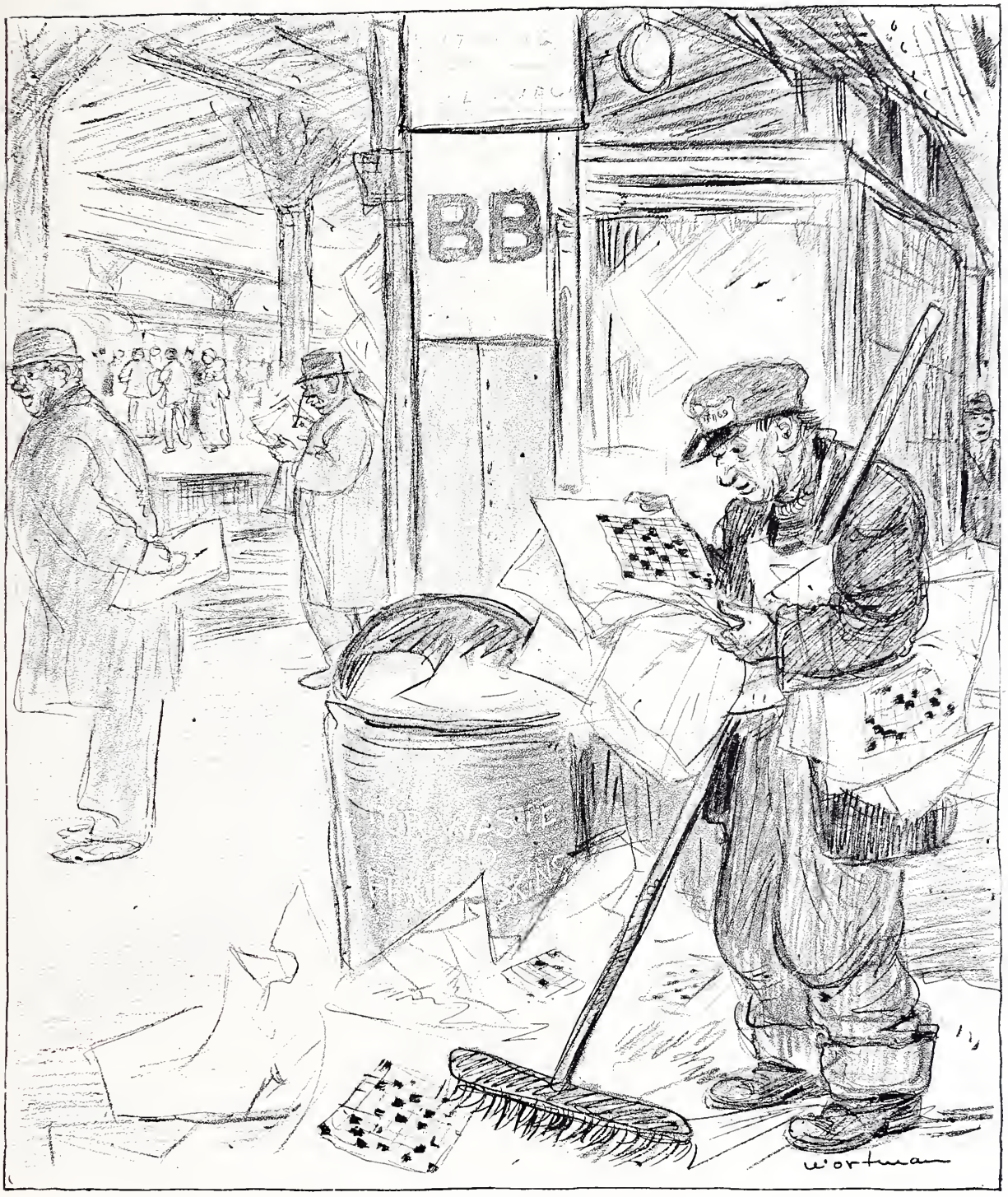


"Tell him to eat the soup first and then the sandwiches."

"Make that 'Fire Sale' instead of 'Bankruptcy.'"

"And when you get through with that, dearest, I want you to clean out the furnace and shovel the snow off the sidewalk"

"Gee, Mister, you must have to dig a lot of worms."



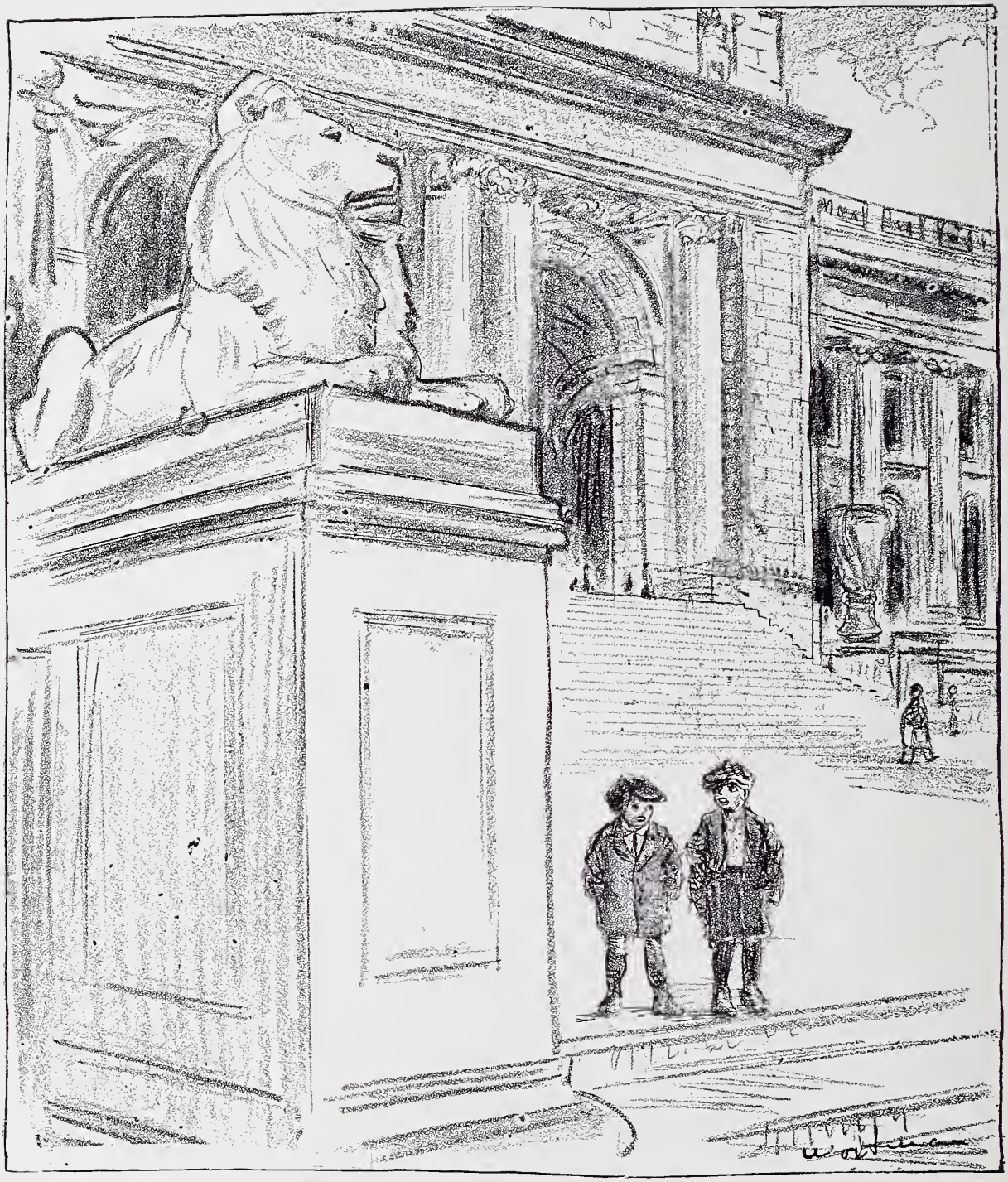
"I ain't found a finished one yet."

"Whad I'd do. I'd call Congress t'gether and I'd say to em . . ."

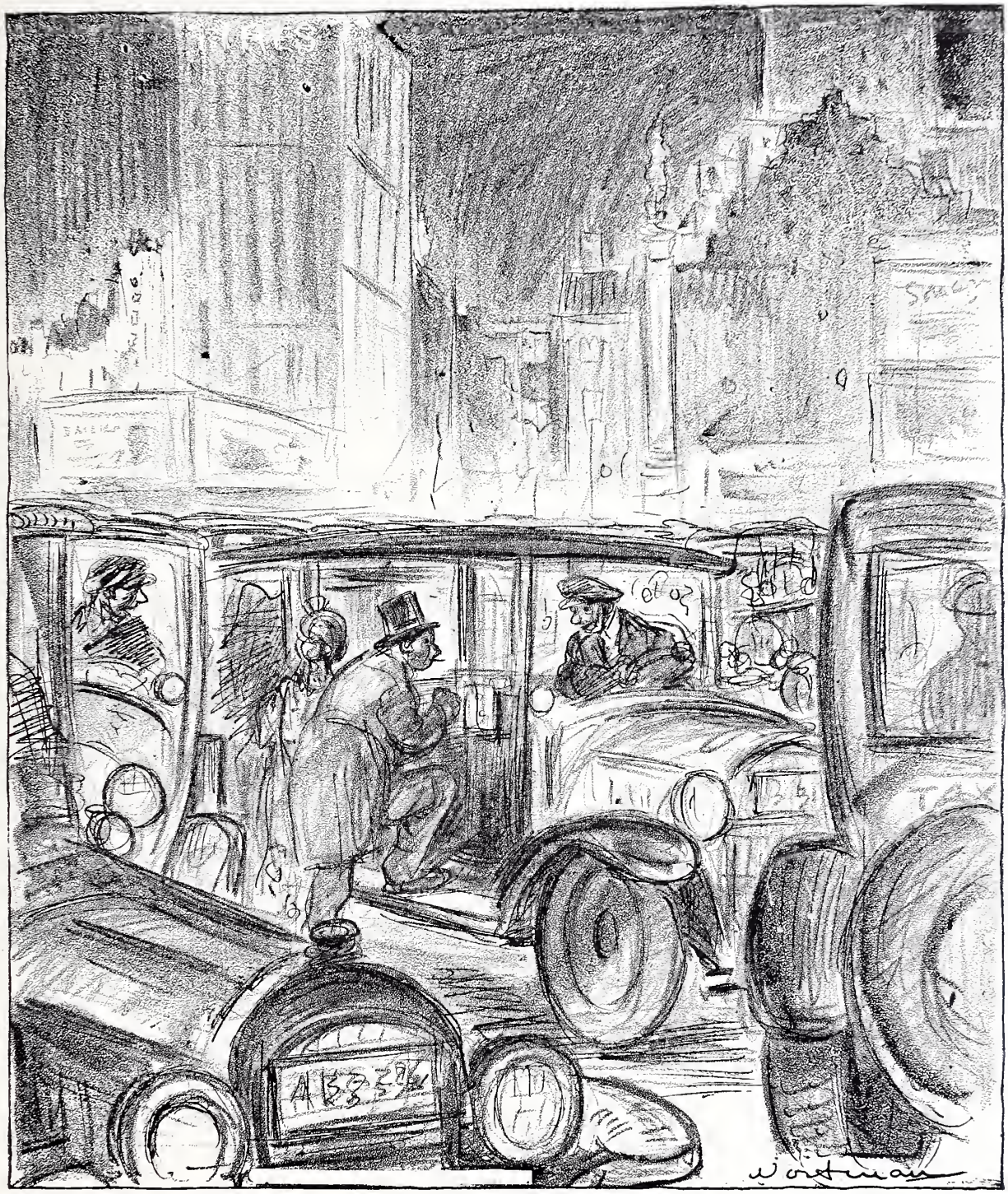
"Well boys, shall we split the bill three ways?"

"Bring her home early, Jim."

"The things they took were of no great value—some frames and a cutaway coat. Thank God, they didn't steal my paintings"



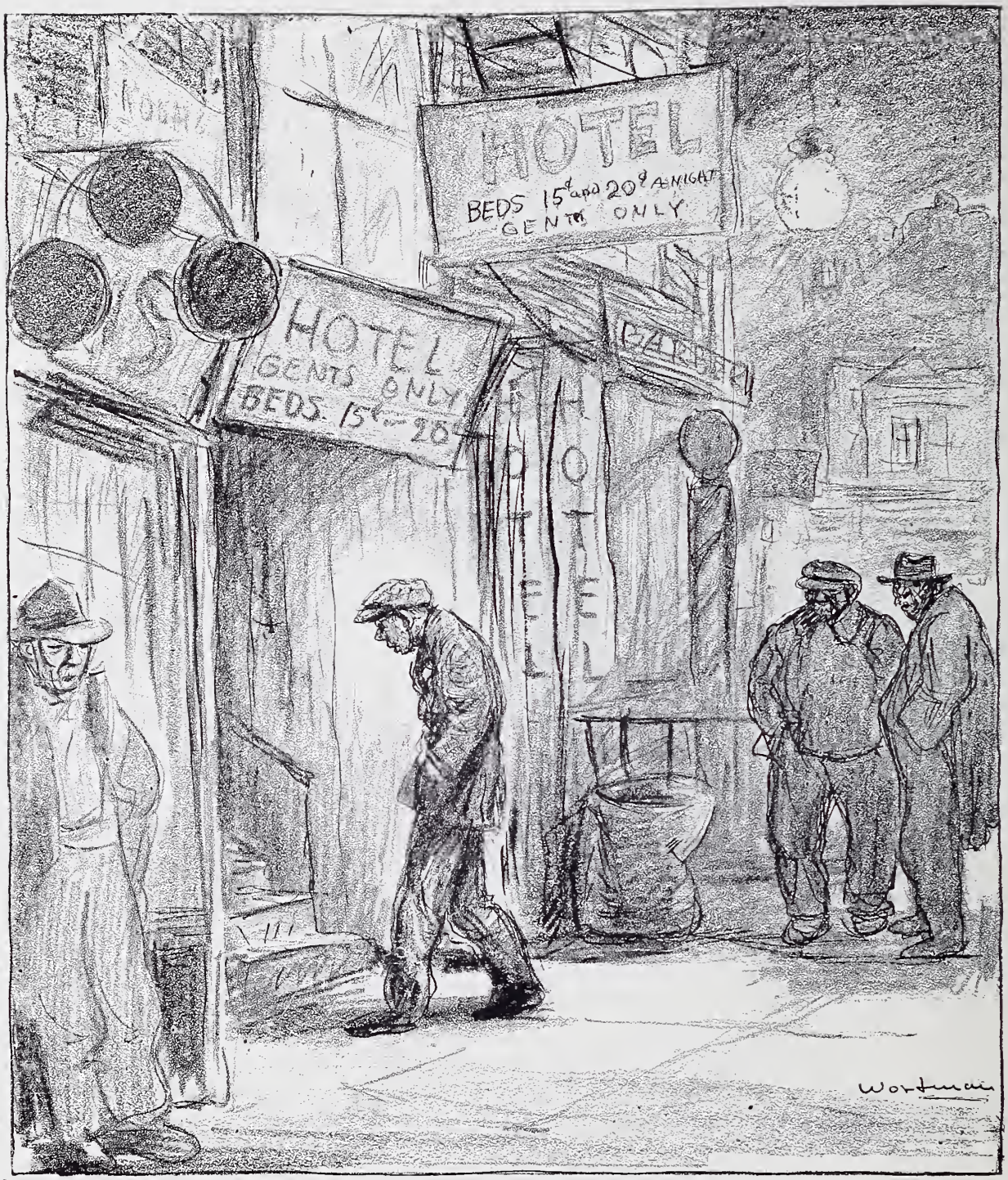
"Outside of that cowboy book I showed you, there ain't a decent book in the whole darn library."



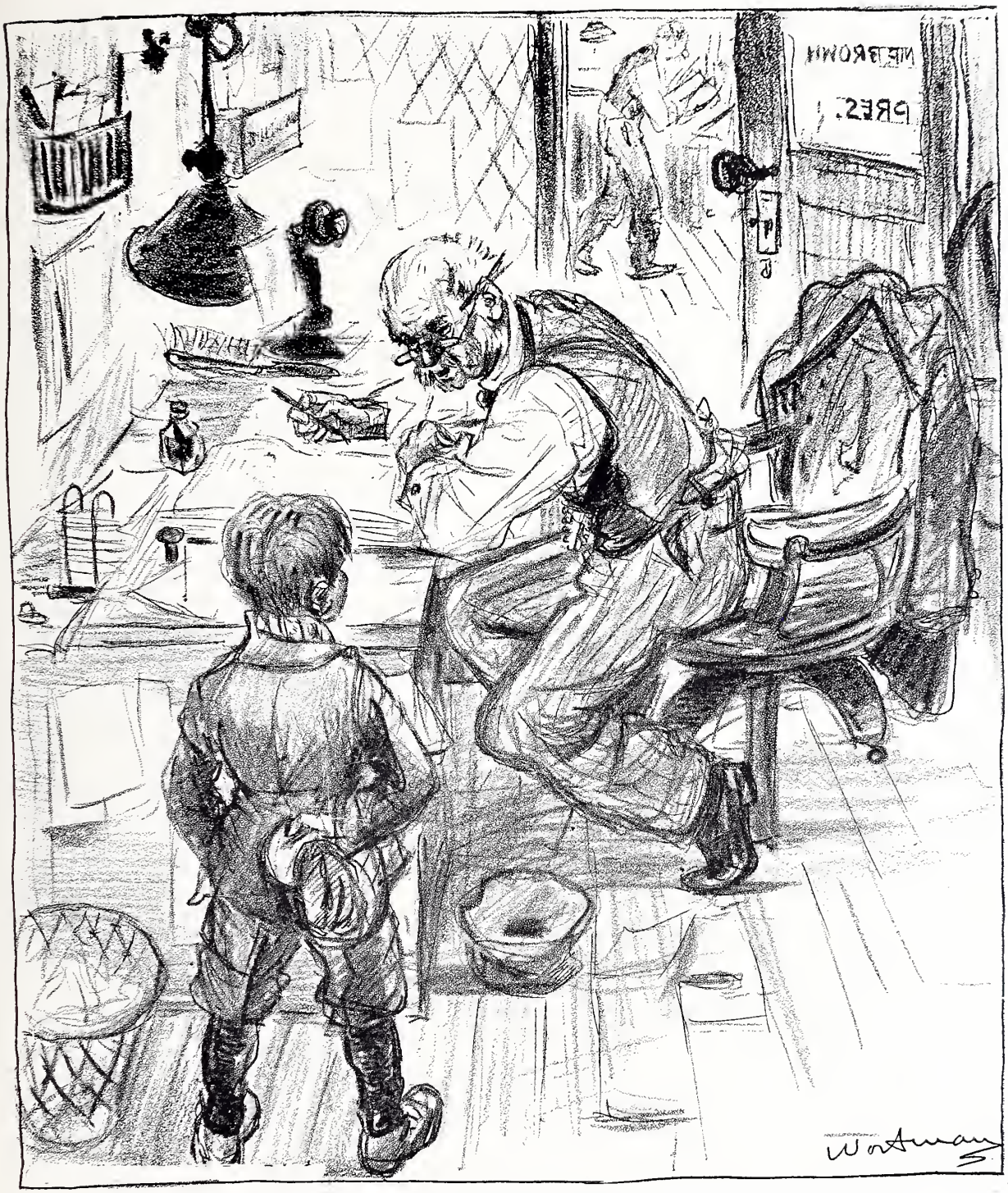
". . . . and make it snappy."

"Eeny Meeny Miny Mo."

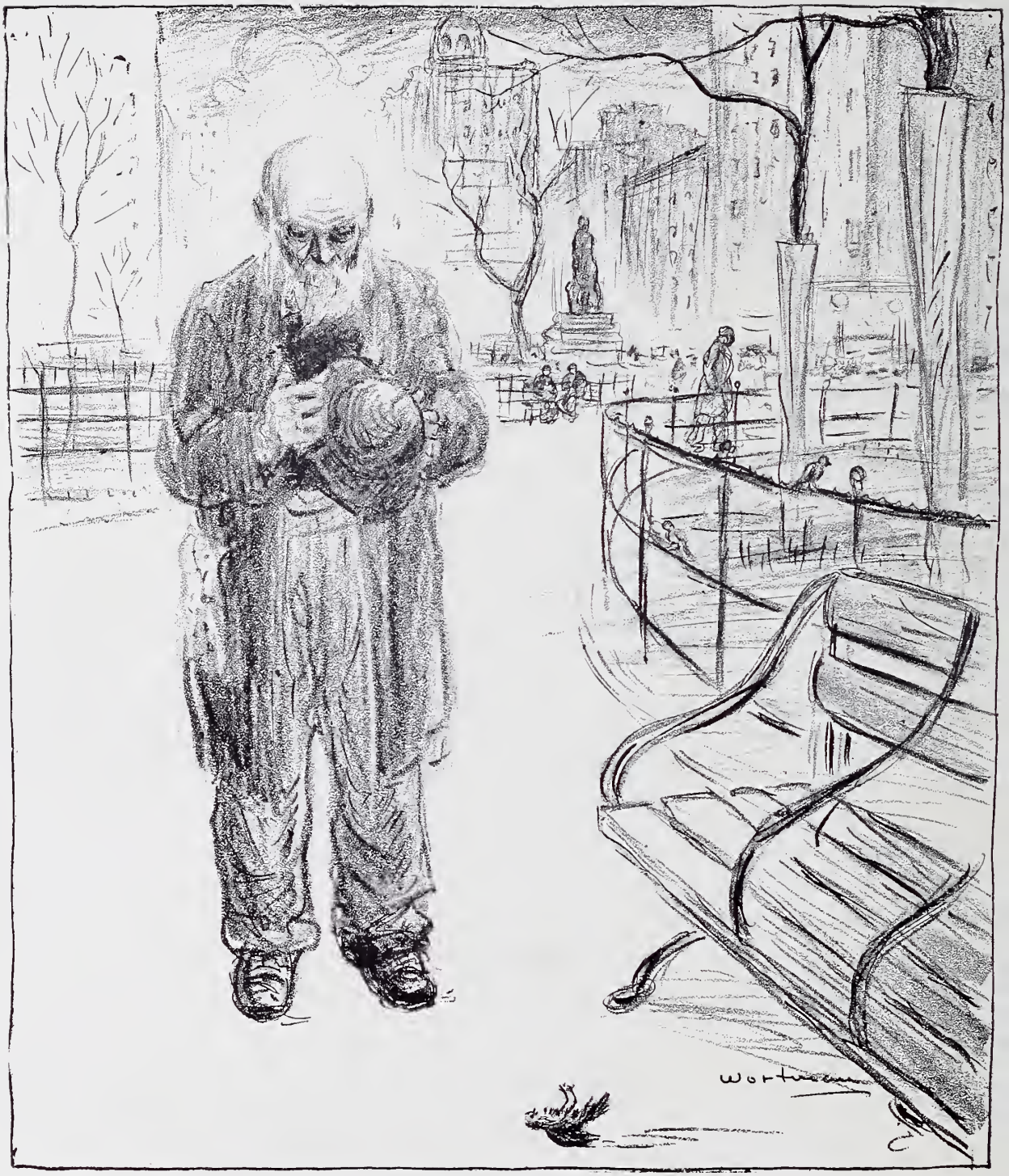
"Promise me you'll write every day"



The boy who ran away from home because he had to sleep with his little brother.



"We start our boys at a very low salary, but the big job's waiting for you if its in you."



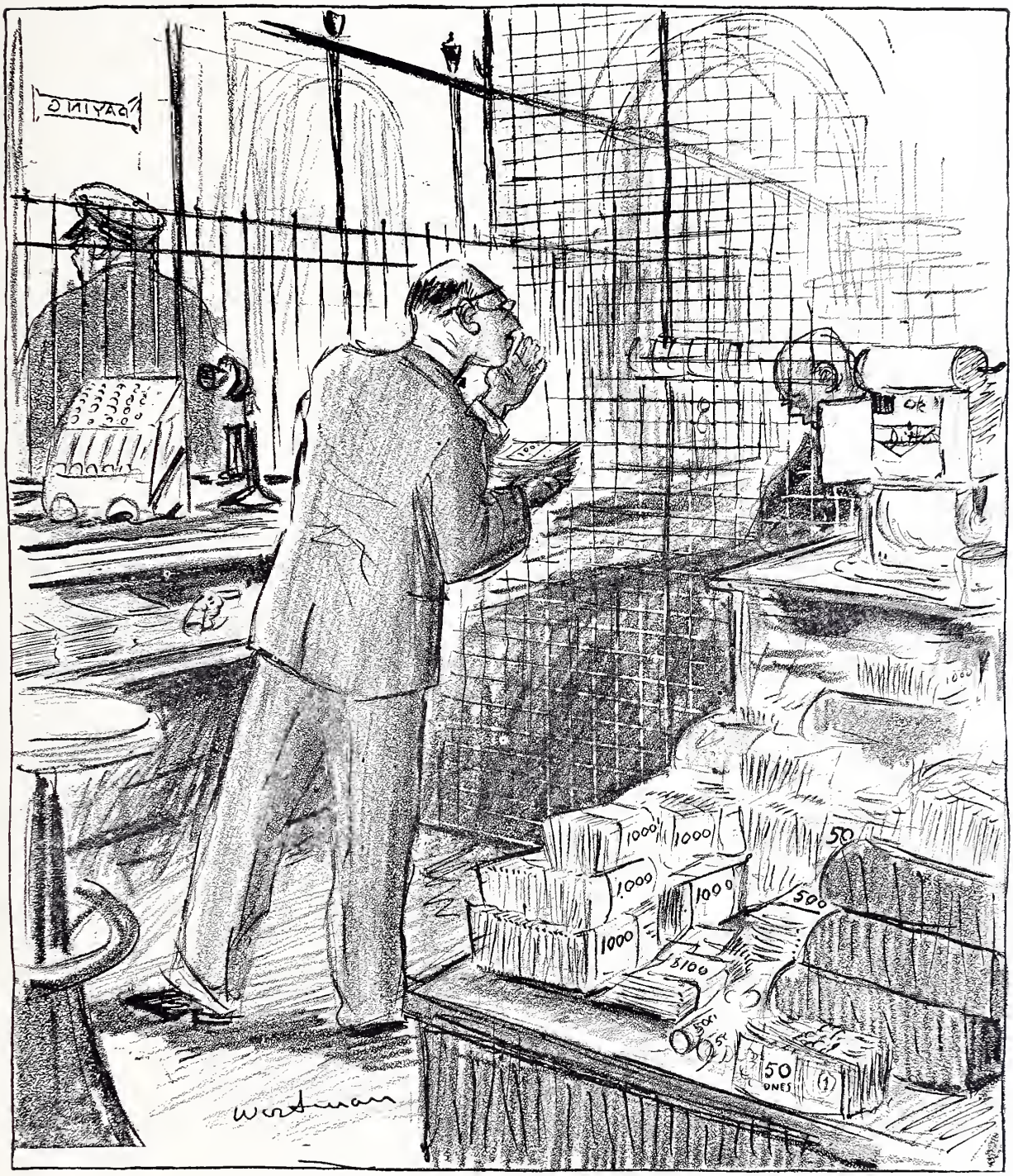
The Death of a Sparrow.

"Tell him the subway was blocked"

"As soon as she got that radio thing I knew something would happen"

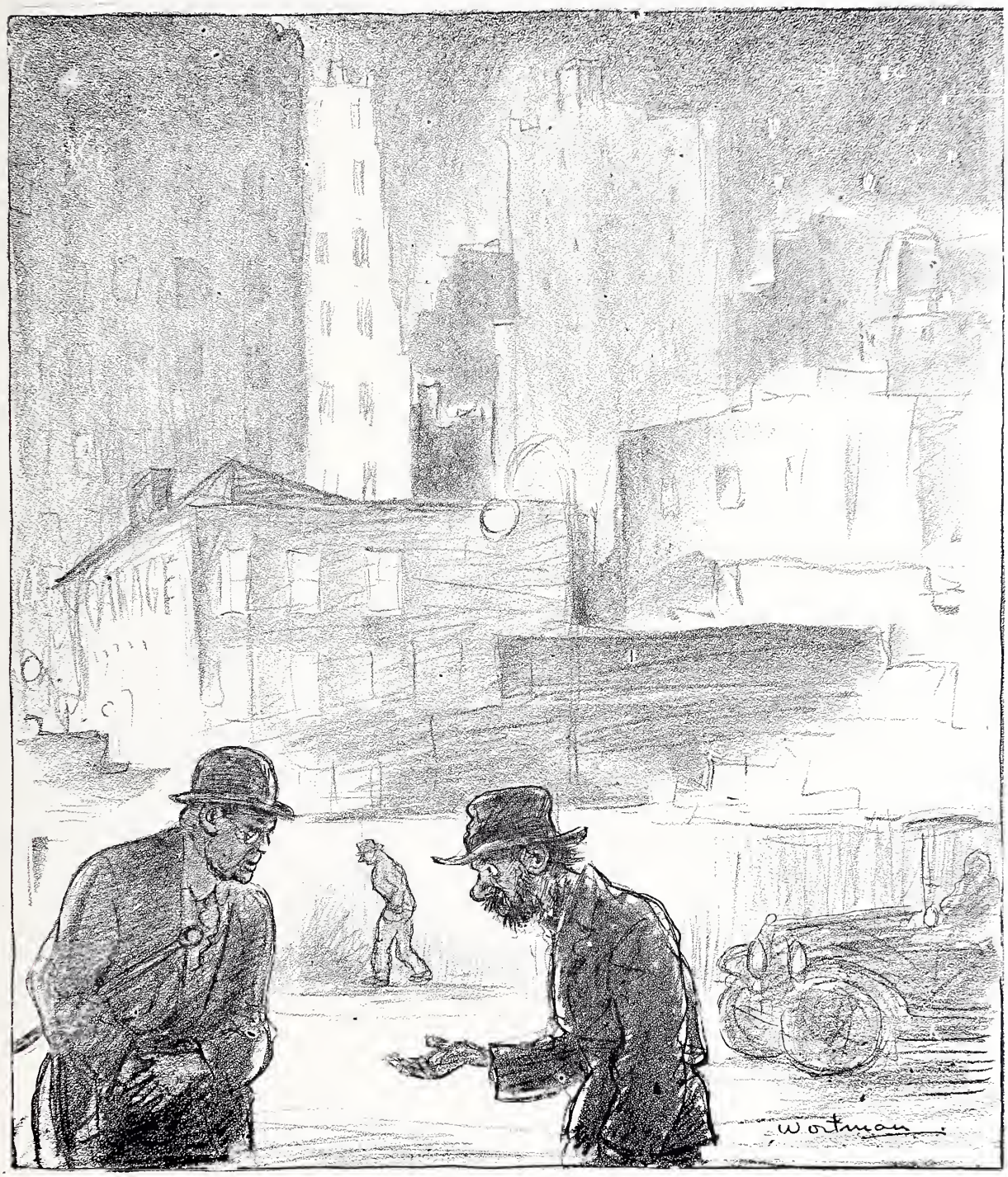
Music Supplied by the Waldorf Orchestra.

"I hauls de trunk to de fourt floor and all she gives me is a doity look for spillin it on her Pekinese dawg."



"Psst, Mr. Brown, can you lend me five bucks till Saturday?"

"Ma says things might be different if you earned a little more"



The Personal Touch.

"Write down he should wipe his feet before he comes in"

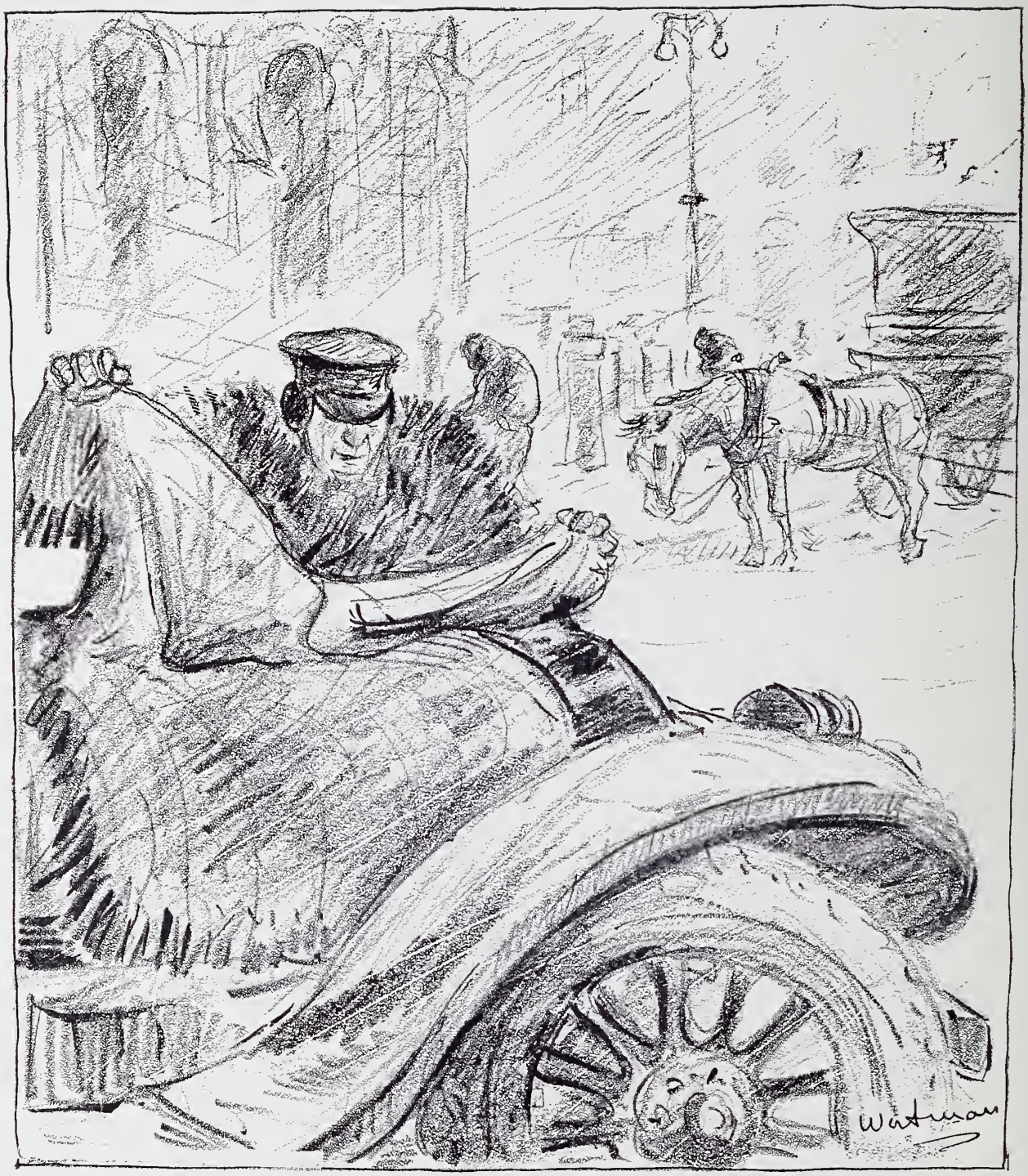
"Which way's west?"
"Sorry, but I'm a stranger here myself."

The Beginnings of Wisdom.

"You see, dearie, I have to charge more for a room with an outdoor view."

"Gee, Bill, did ja see U. S. Steel is off a coupla points."

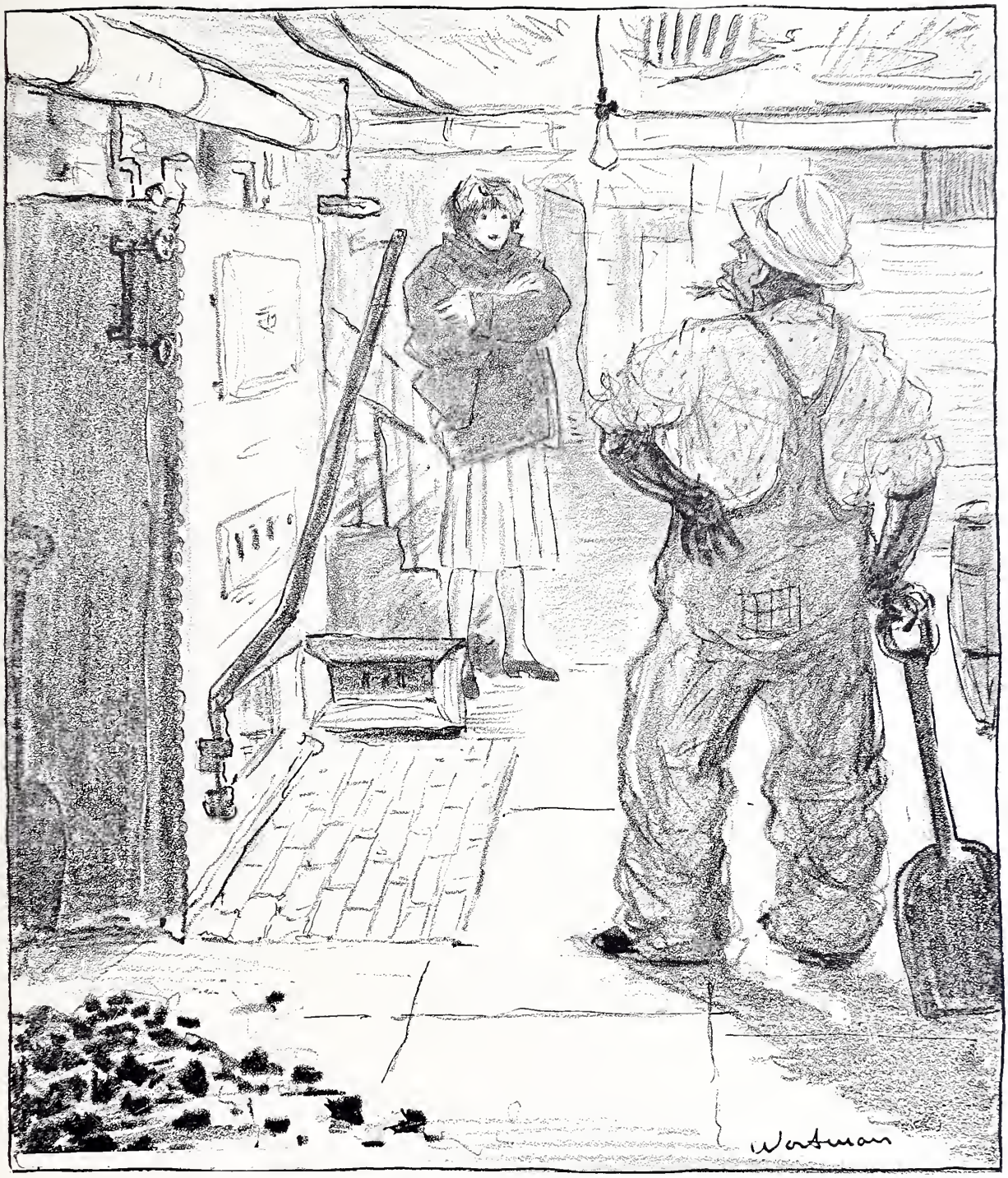
The lad who used to dream of building castles in the air.



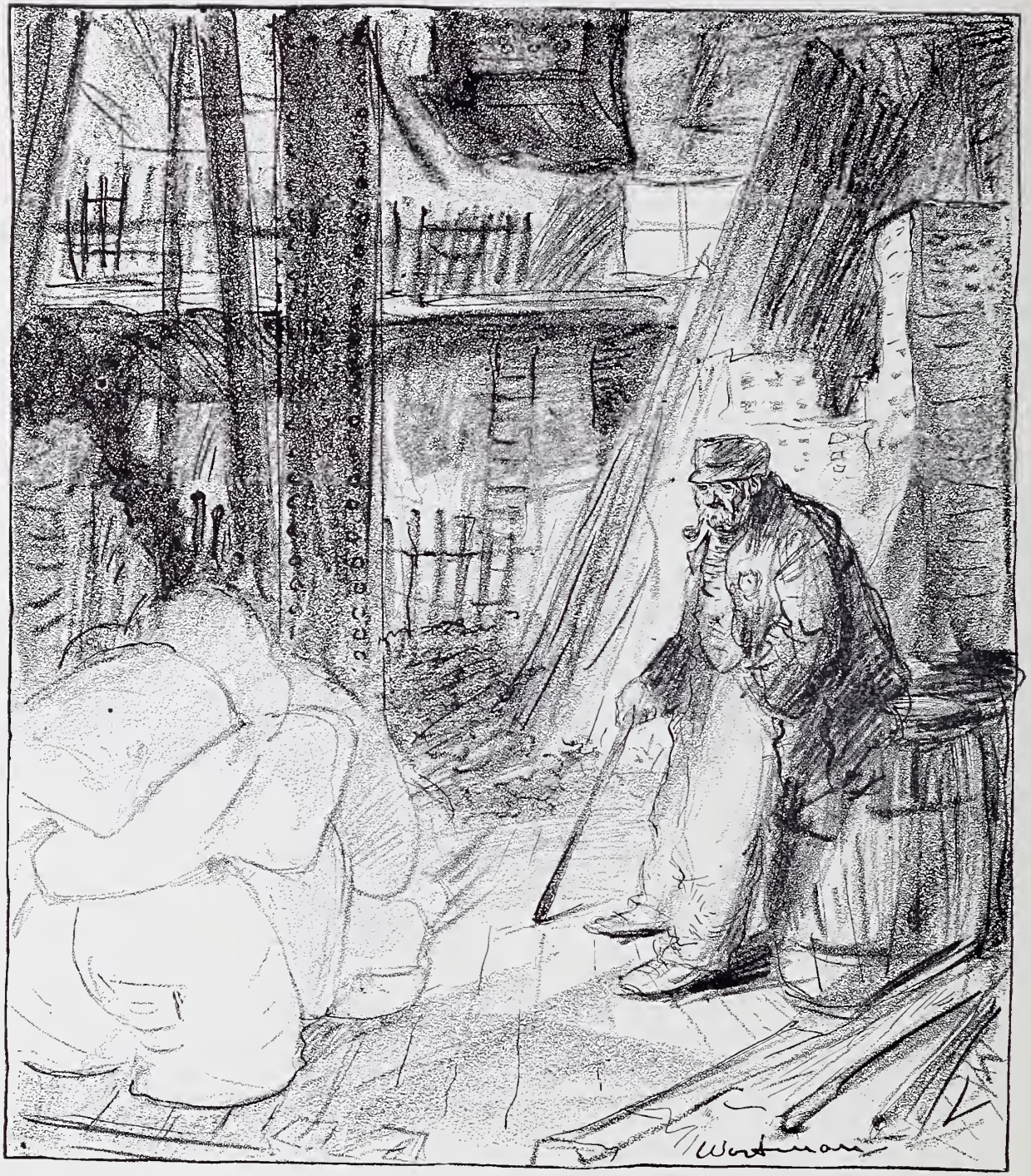
Winter.

"I wonder,—if I take a smaller room . . ."

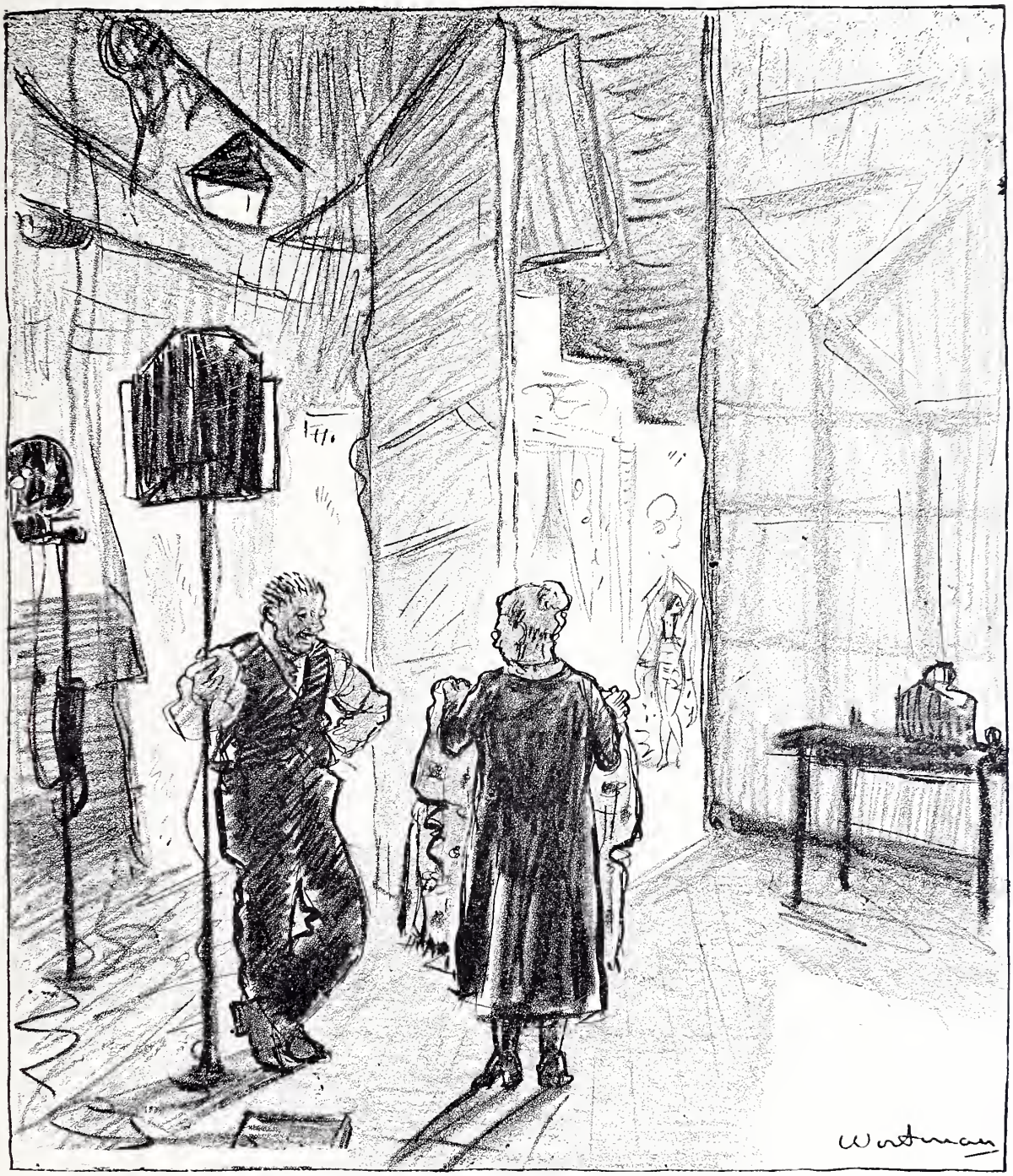
"Hurry up, Tommy, the stove's almost out."



"I know, but the landlord keeps sayin' 'go easy, go easy.'"



The boy who promised his mother he would keep regular hours.

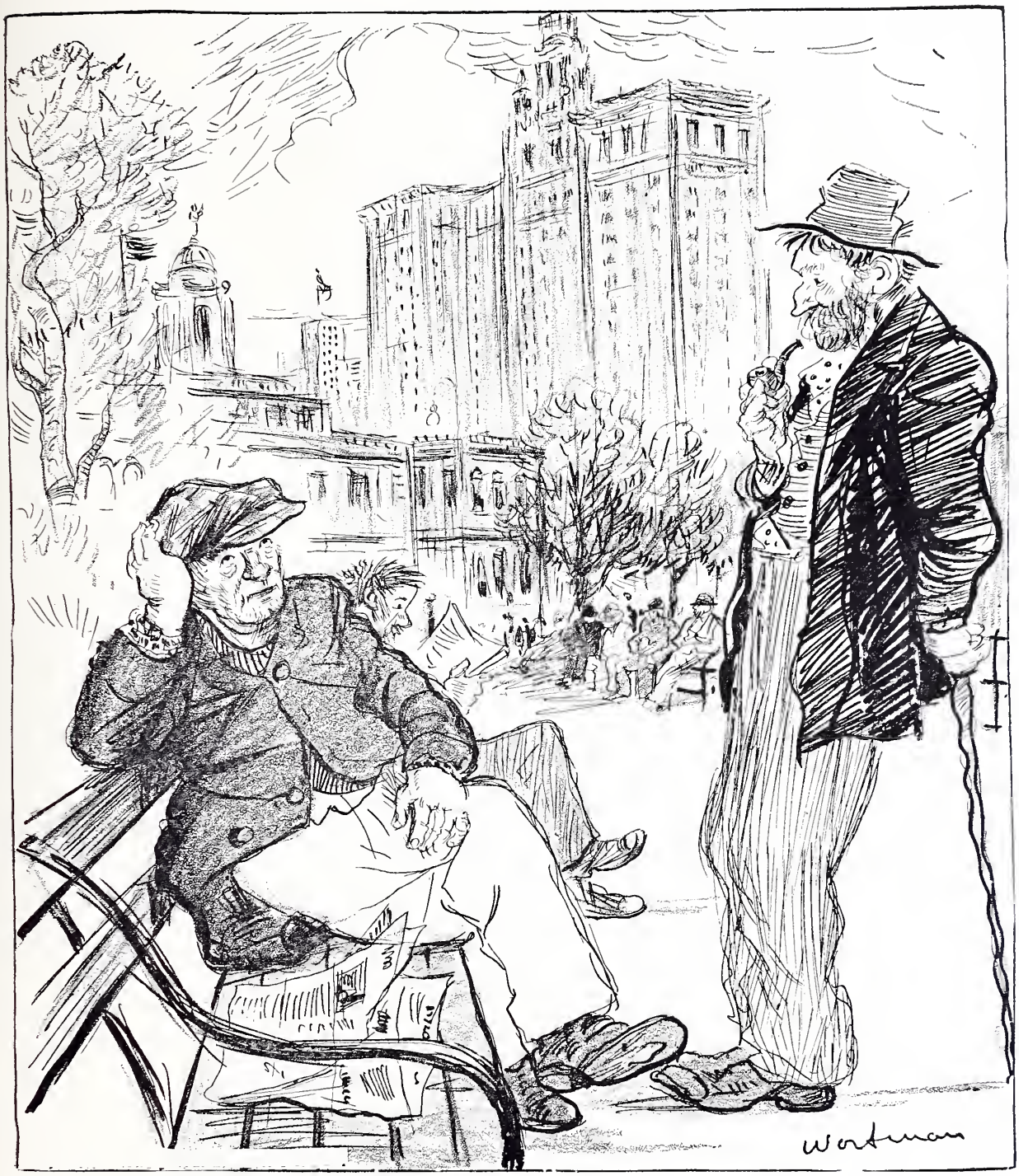


"You see it's her first week on Broadway and I'm scared to death she'll catch cold"

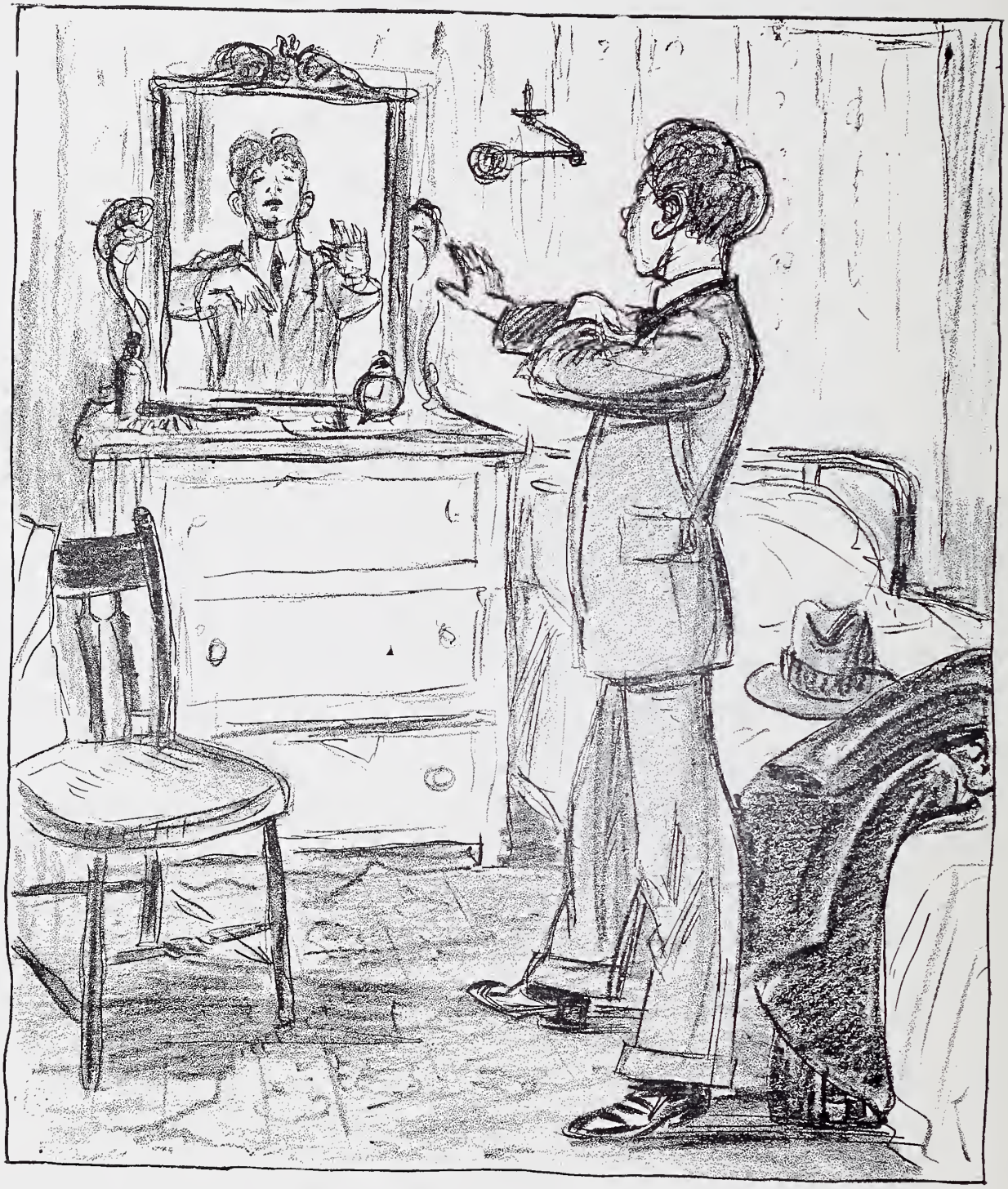
The Widow's Mite.

"What you stalling for?"
"Waiting till he gets the tip out"

"Imagine the impudence of that beggar to ask us for money and we on our way to a Charity Ball!"

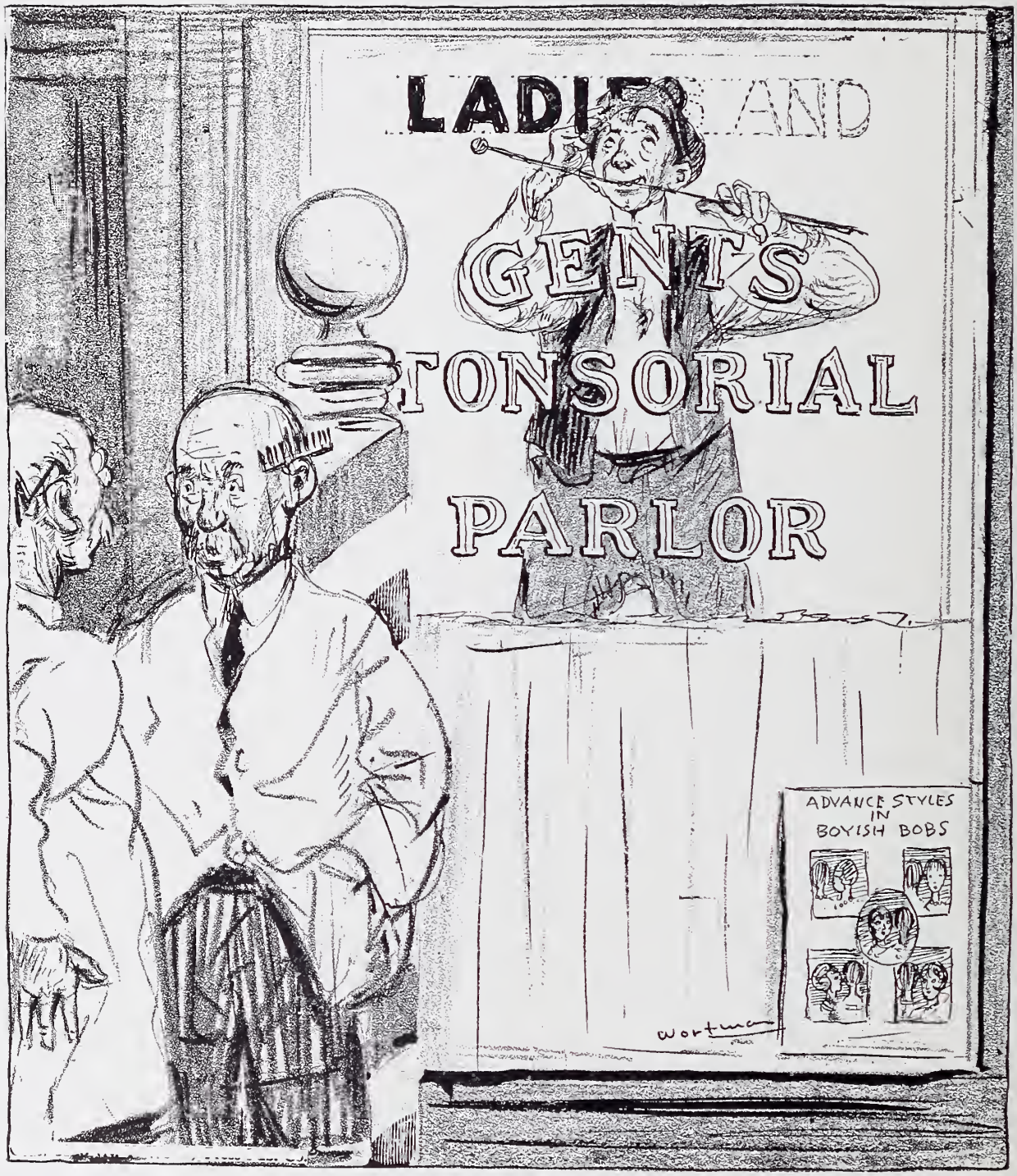


"Well, Louis, watcha doin'?"
"Figurin' how much I'd make if I got the job of cleanin' all the windows in that building."

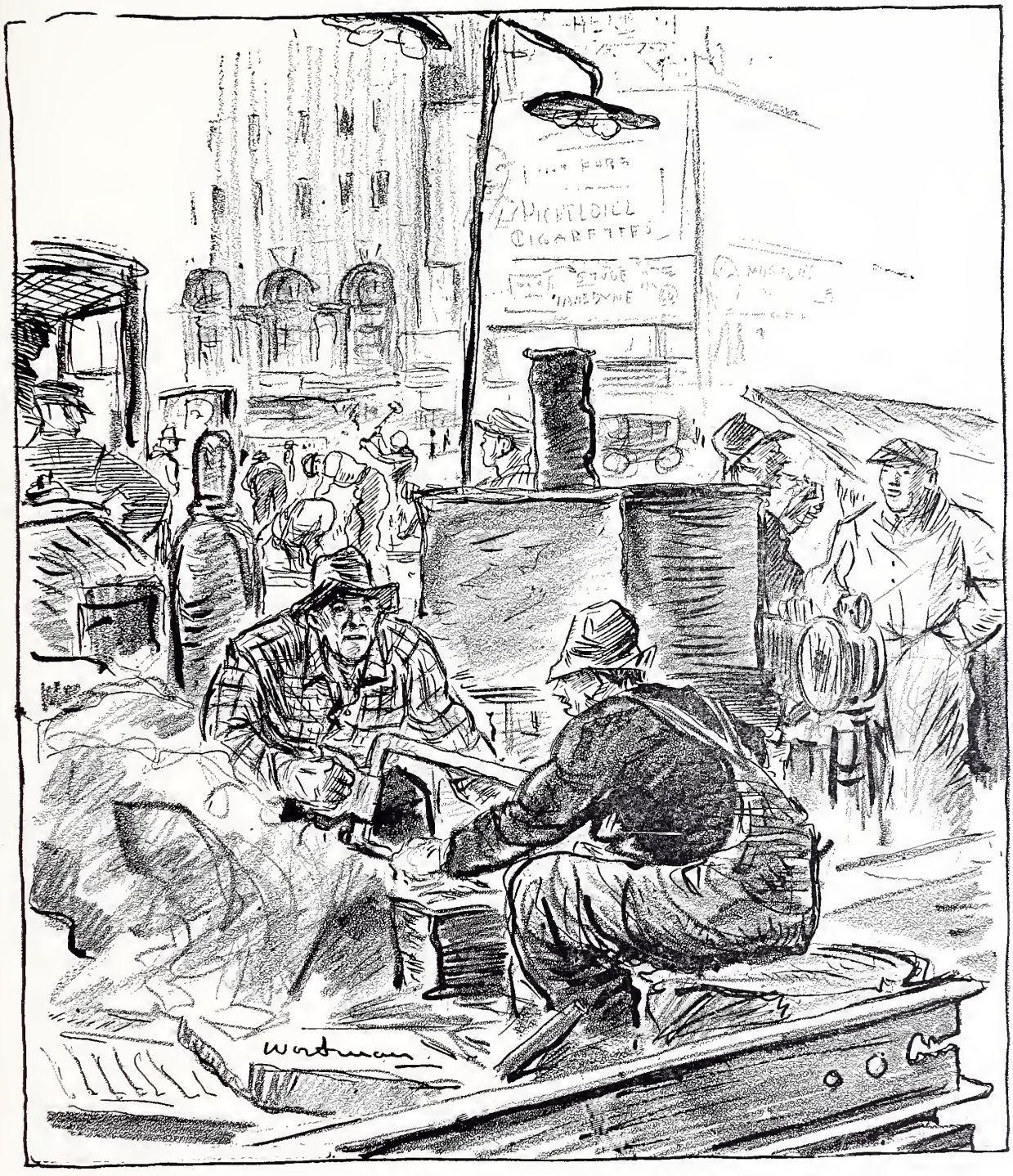


"If I don't get this raise, Mr. Page, I'm going to leave you flat."

"You can mail George his tuition money on the way down."



"I never thought I'd live to see the day."



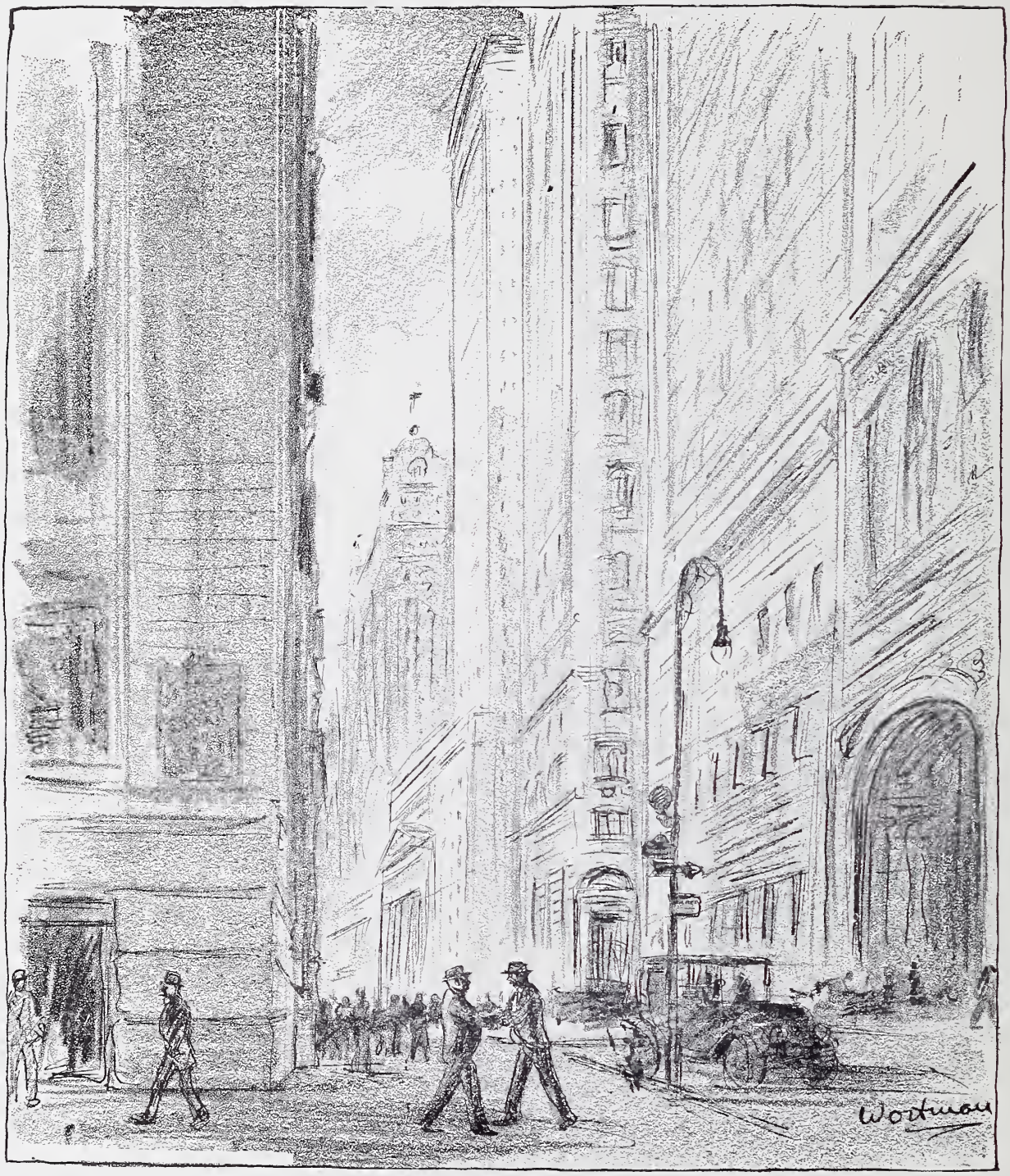
"Mamie says she loves me, but that cake-eater still hangs around"

The Charleston
"Look daughter! I believe I've got it at last"

"I'm tellin' yer, they's gettin' to be too darn many of these taxicabs."

Easter Flowers.

"Sure Mr. Franklin, your radio is a wonderful thing, the wire comes in so handy"

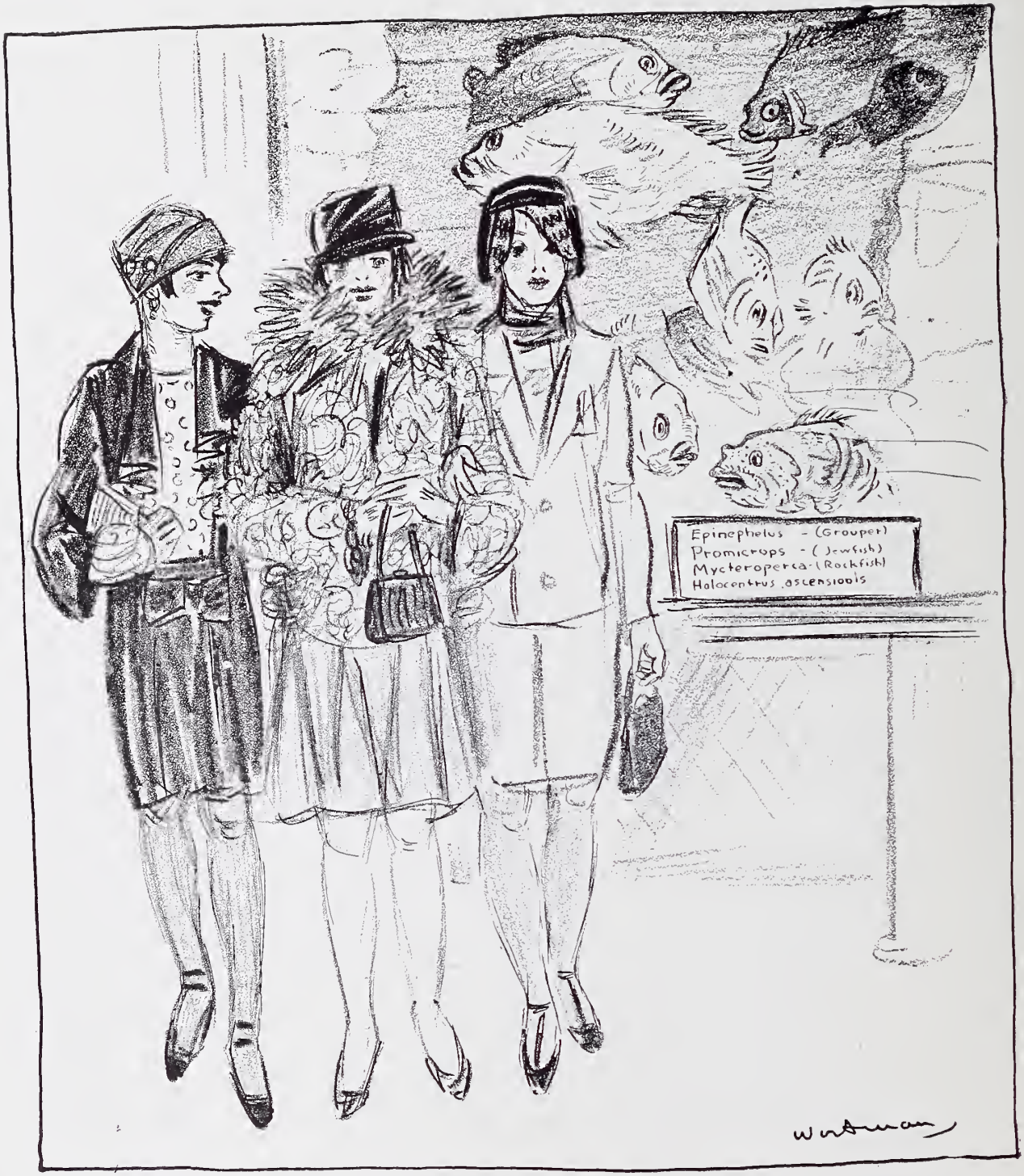


"Well, well—the last place I saw you was back in Bird Center."

The Prisoner's Song

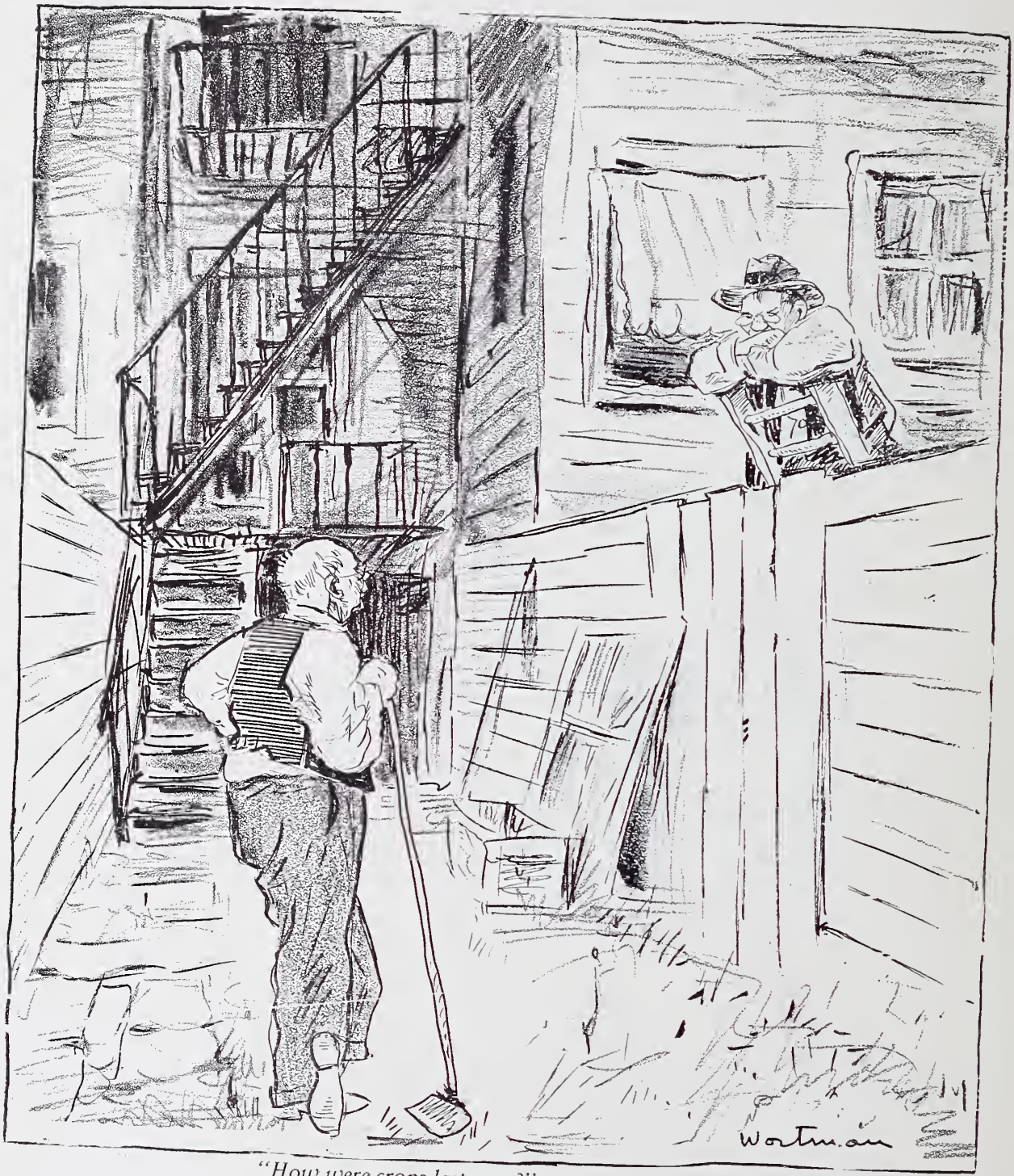
At the Flower Show.
"Say Jimmy, d'y'spose Heaven would be as pretty as this?"

"My mother's at the butcher's and I hafta watch the baby."



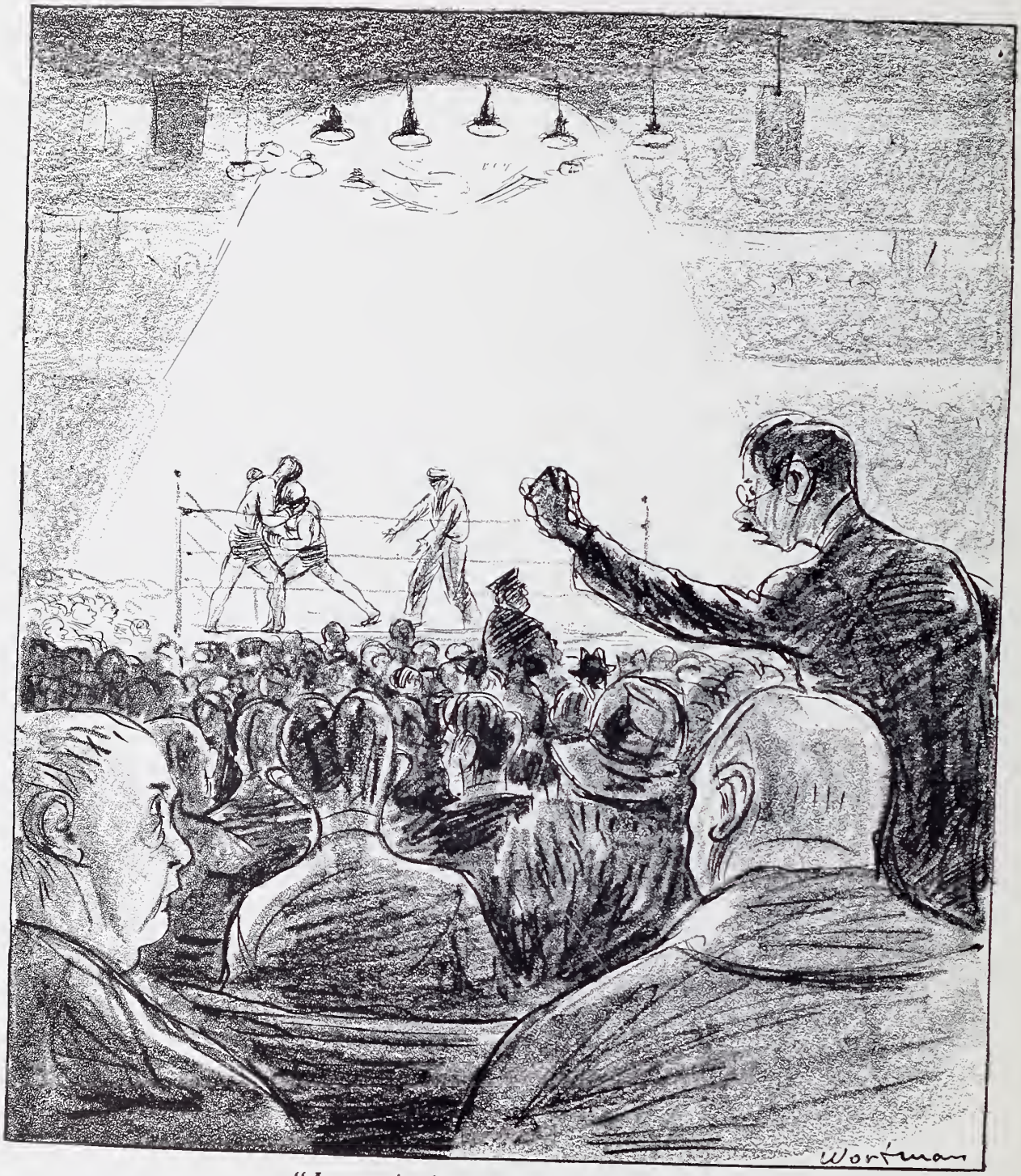
"That reminds me, let's cook filet of sole for dinner"

"Git the'el outa here, you damn little guttersnipe,—to insult a lady like me."

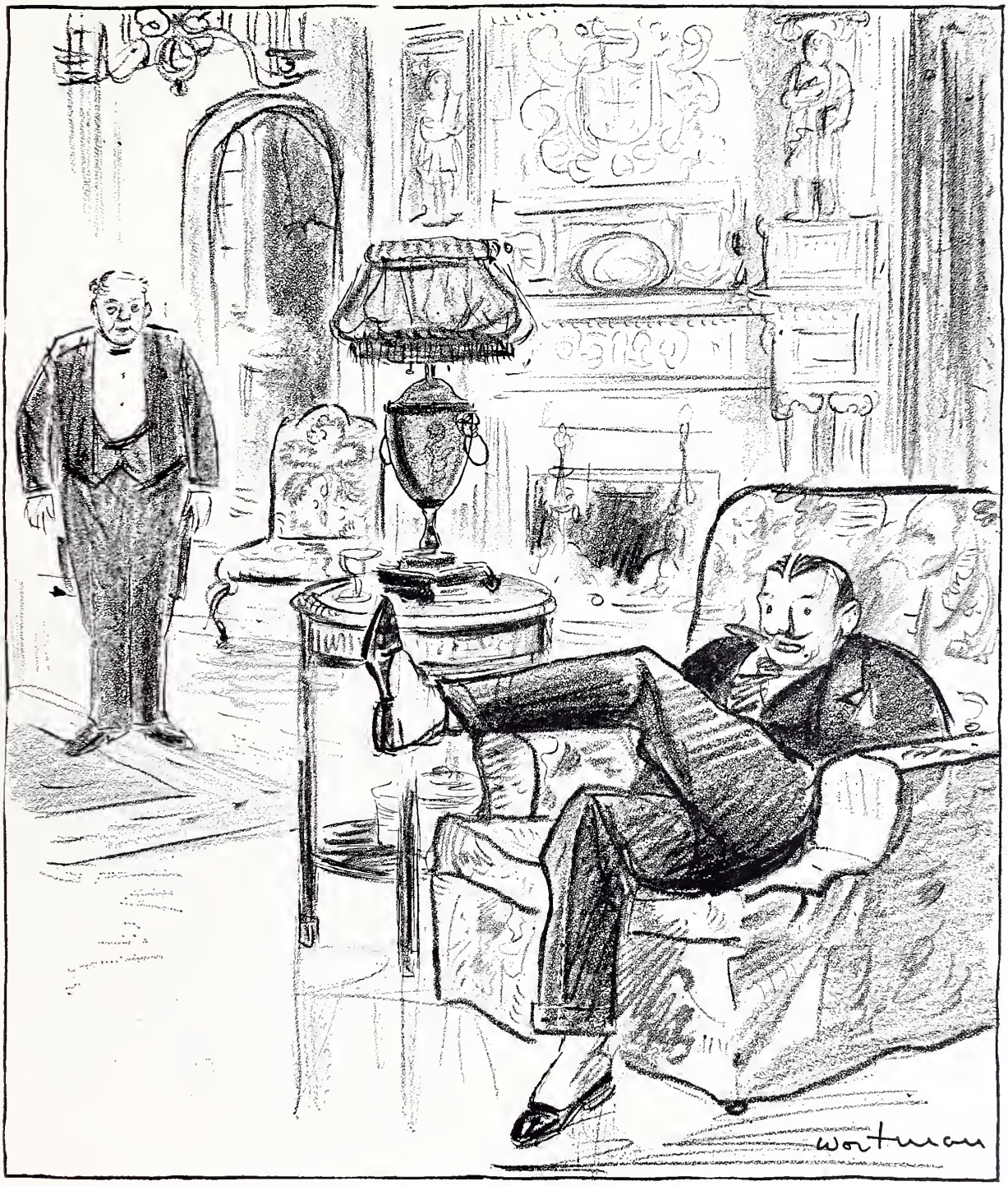


"How were crops last year?"
"Great, three onions and a tomato."

"Well, bo, we all get planted sooner or later, don't we?"



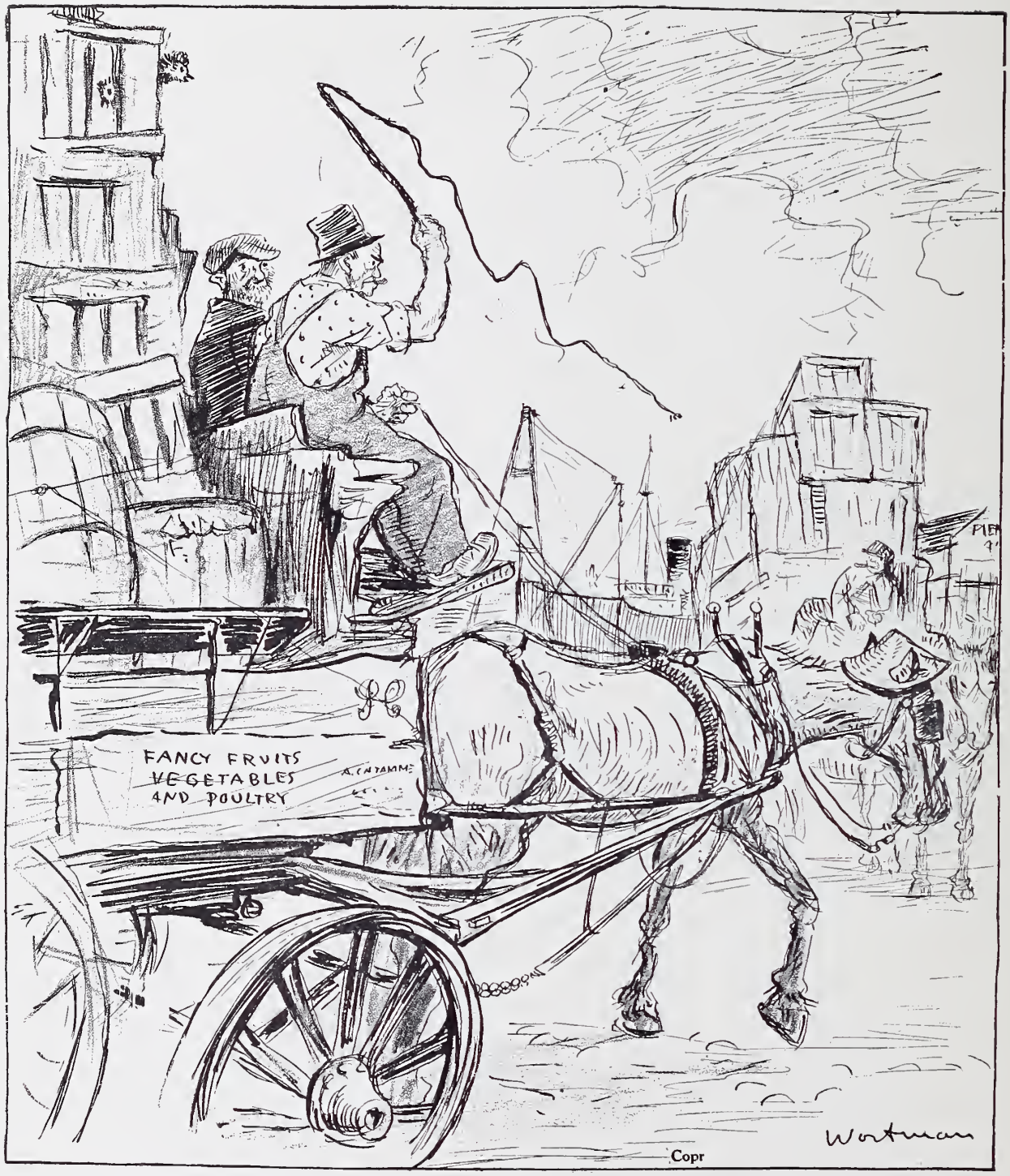
"Aw, get in there and fight, ya big stiffs."



"Perkins, is your mistress going out?"
"I believe she is, sir."
"Do you know if I am going with her?"

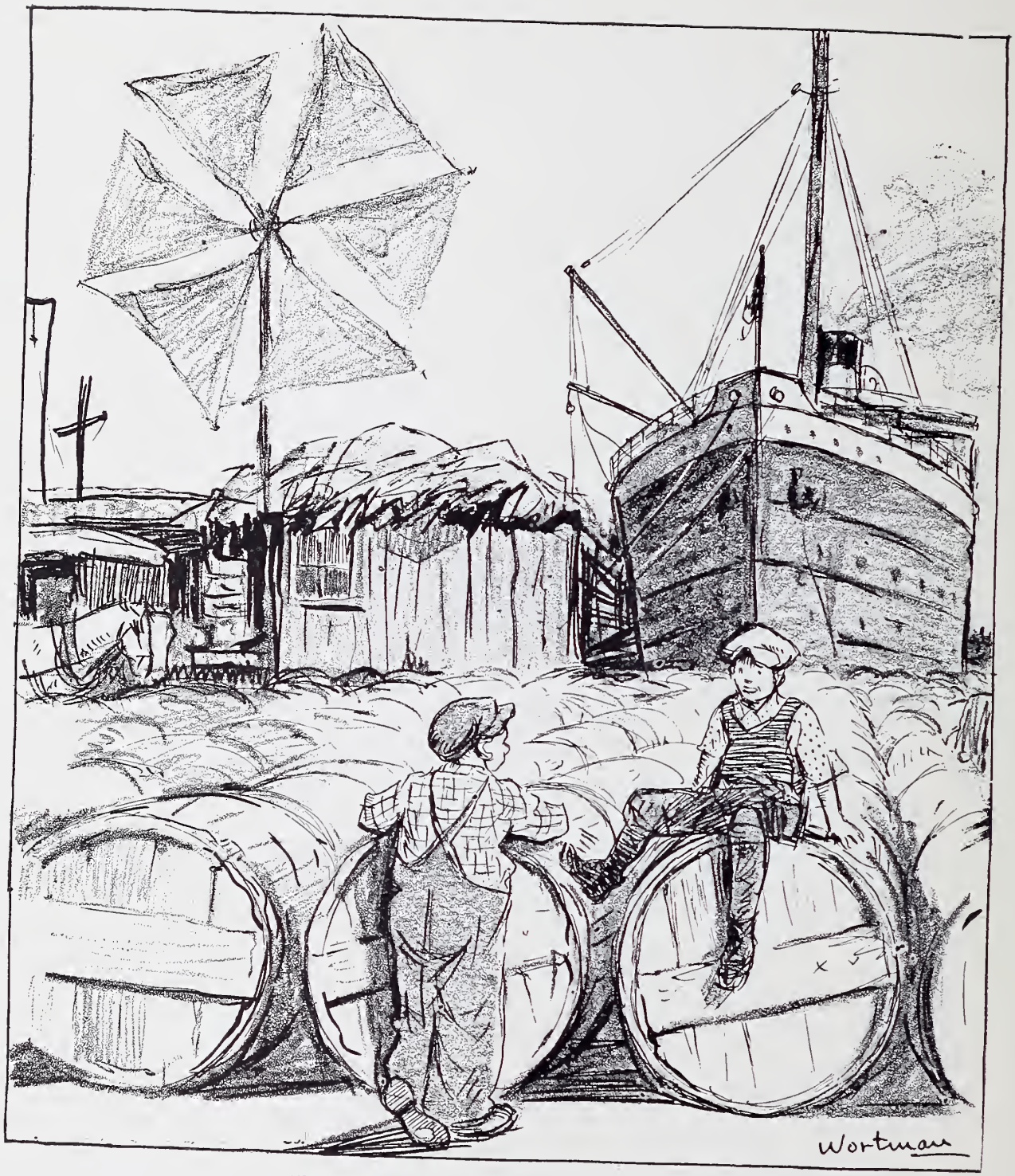
"You don't mean to say you'd arrest a lady?"

"Can you imagine bein' married and only havin' one man's washin' to do?"



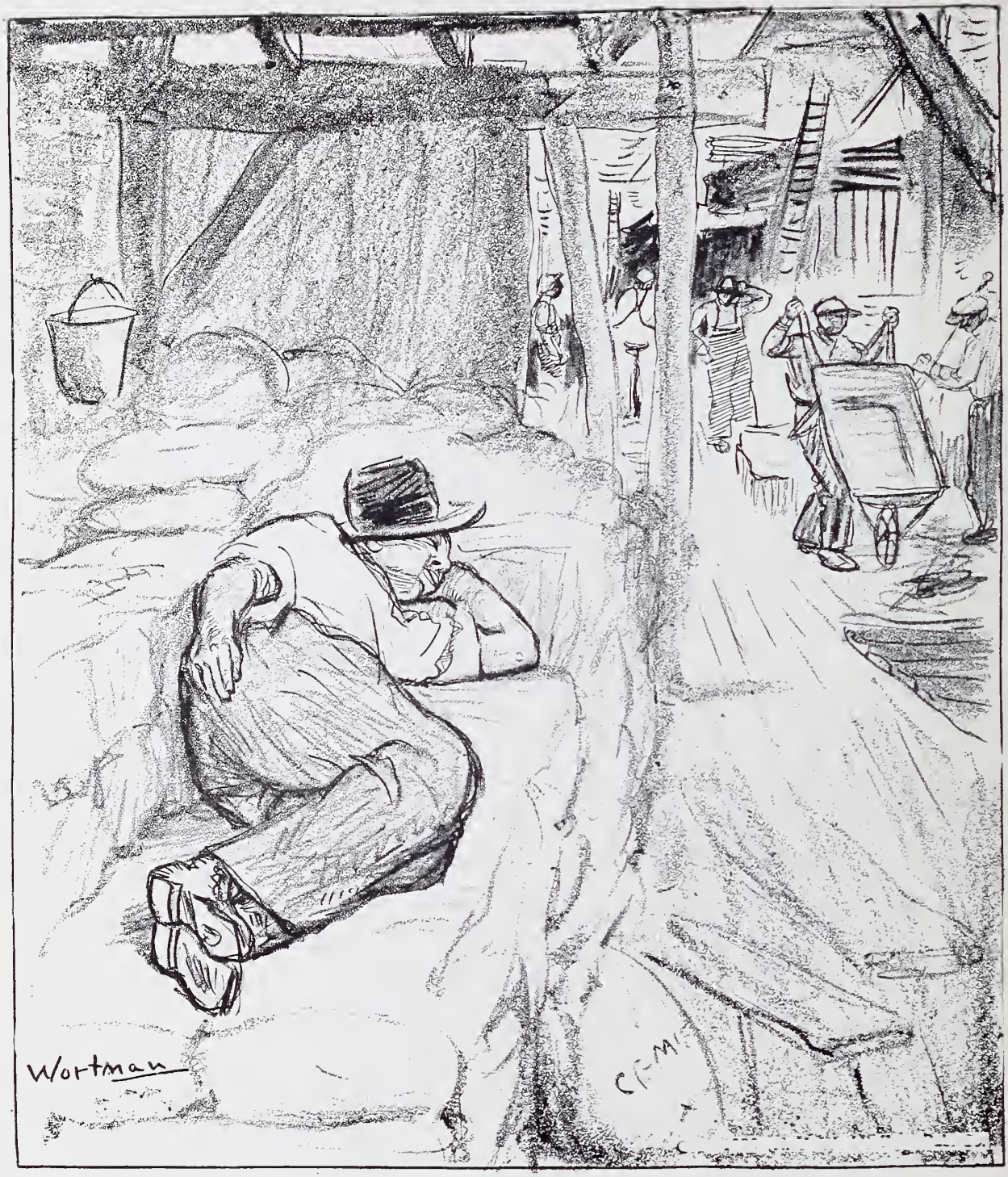
"Like my own son I treat my horse, but I can't beat the laziness out of 'em."

"Take it from me, dearie, for solid comfort give me a Ritzmobile every time"



"When I grow up I'm goin' to be a sailor."
"Aw gee, why dontcha be a captain?"

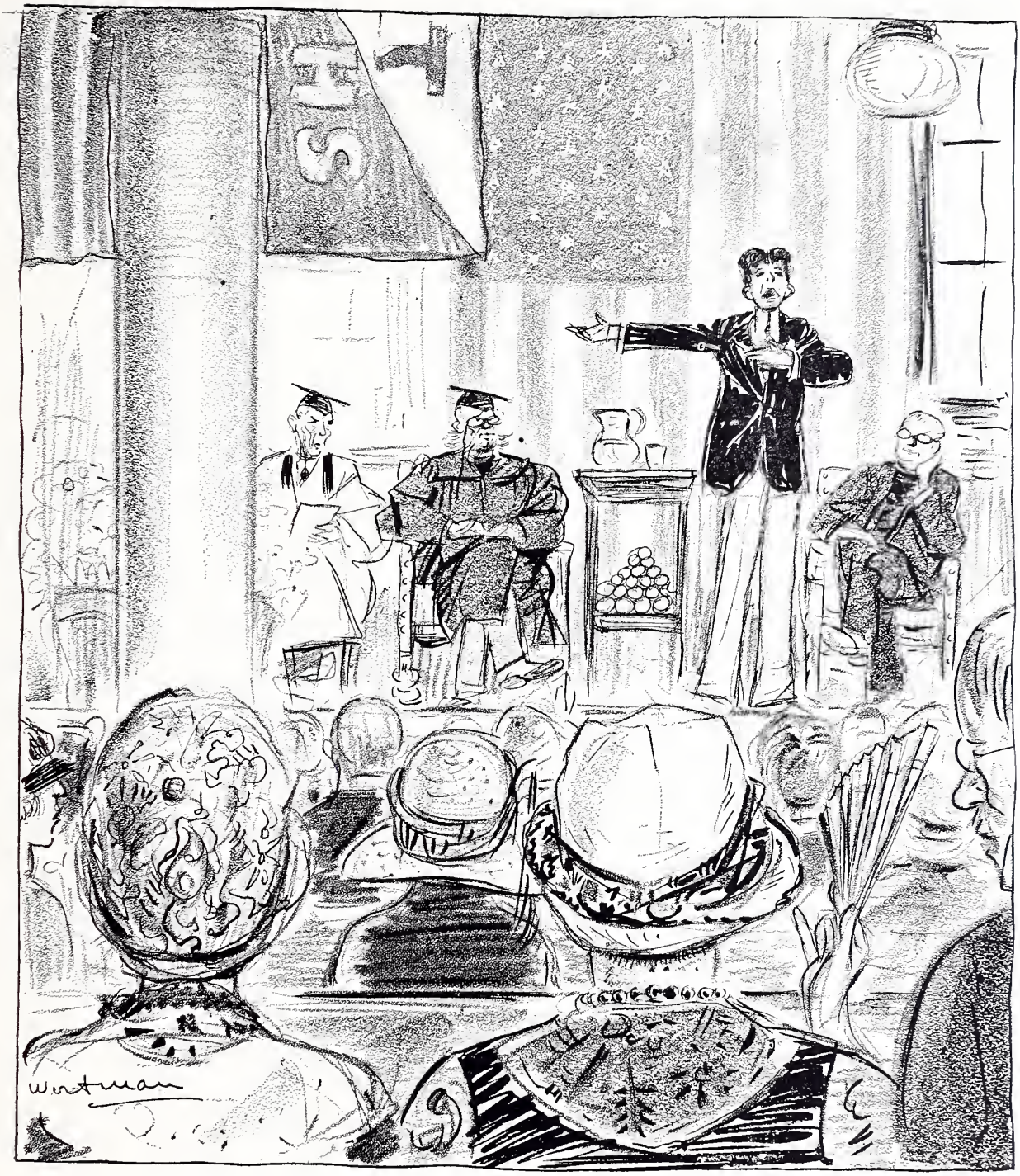
The Day of Rest.



Siesta

"And imagine the tight wad suggestin' to take me back from the show in the subway."

"Quick, Ella, hide the stove, the landlady's coming"

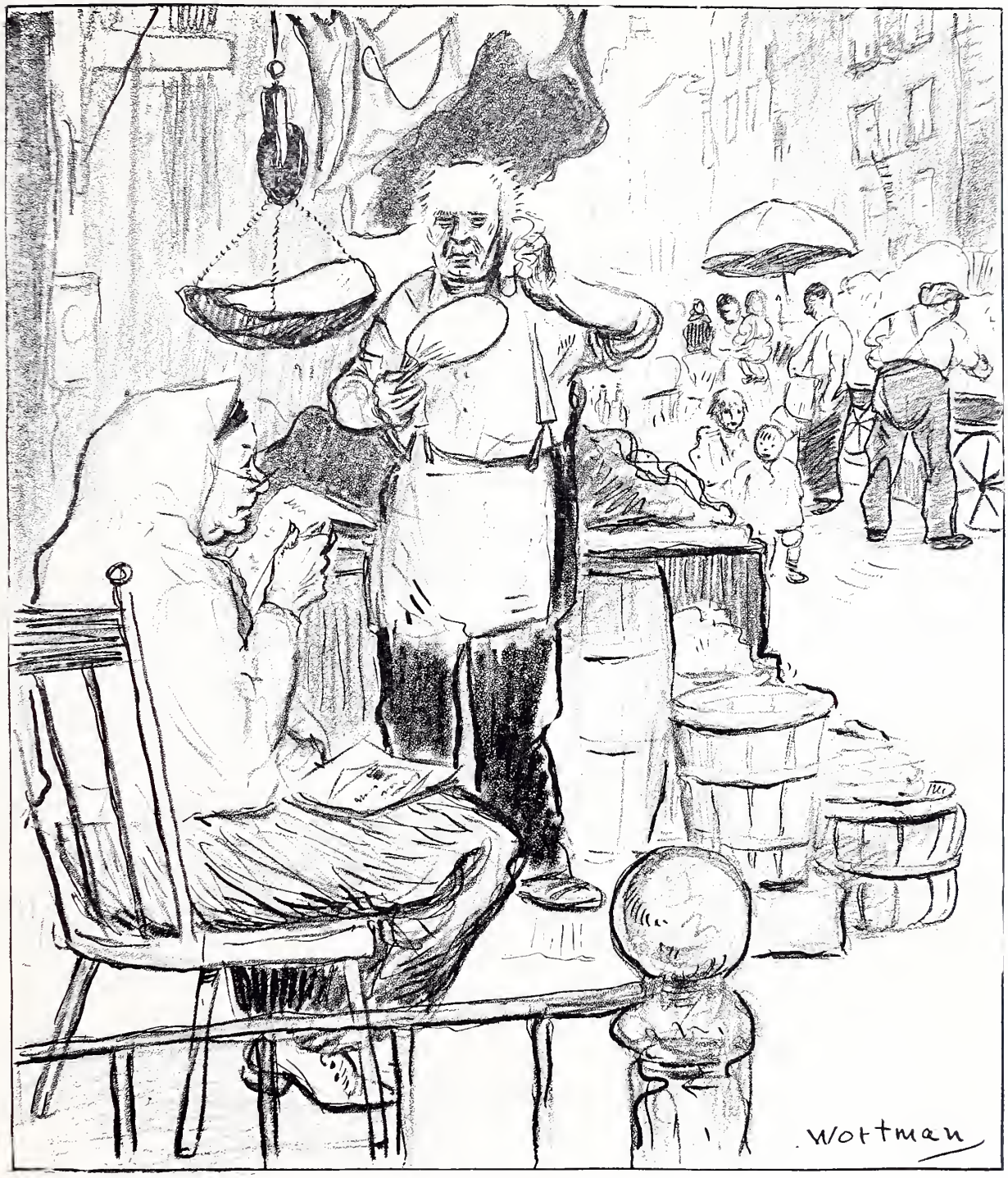


"Civilization awaits . . . ."

"Aw, I wisht it would hurry up and get winter."

"I'm gonna have some mushmellon and ice cream for lunch."

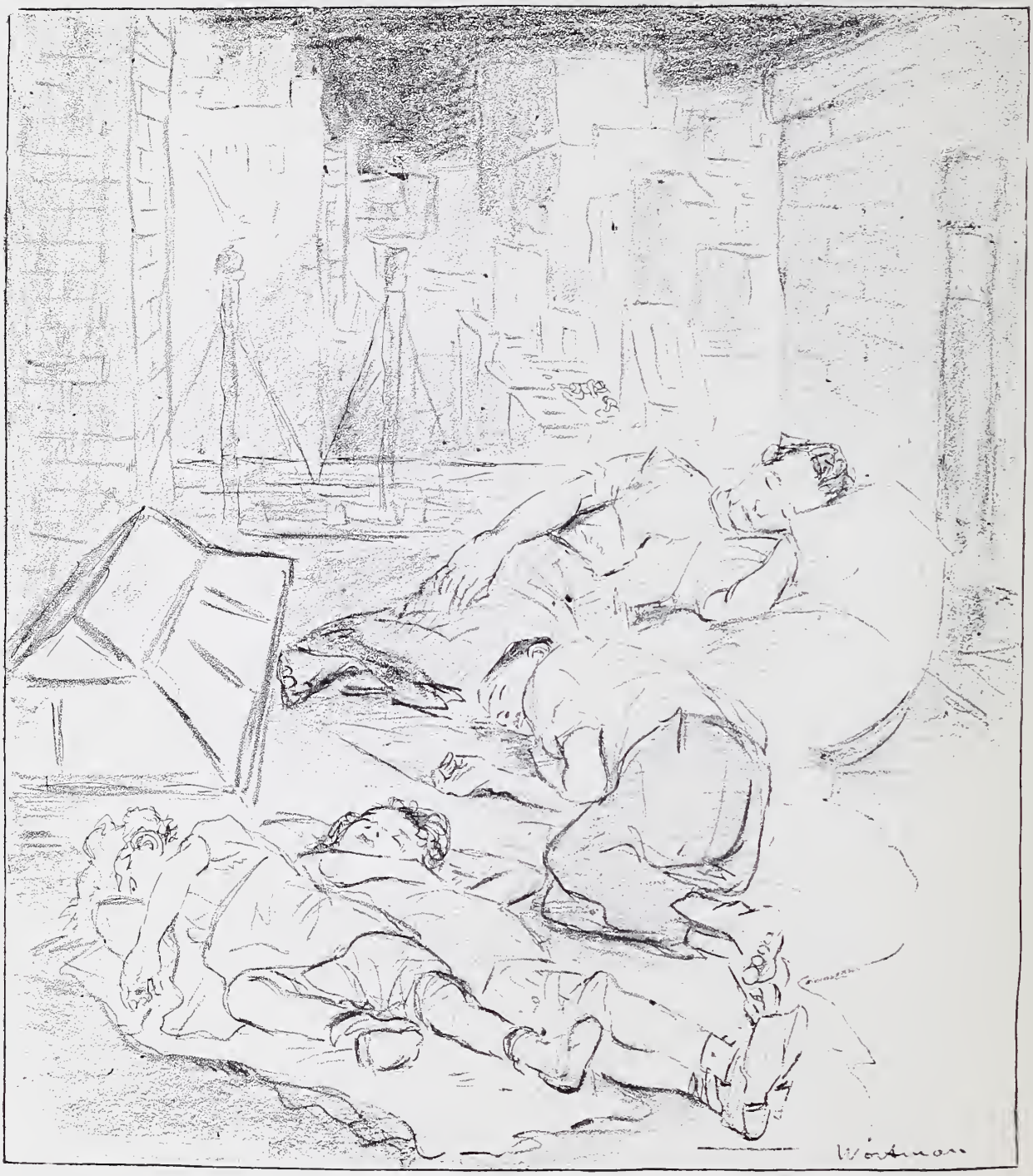
"Oh, you summer widowers always want to go home early."



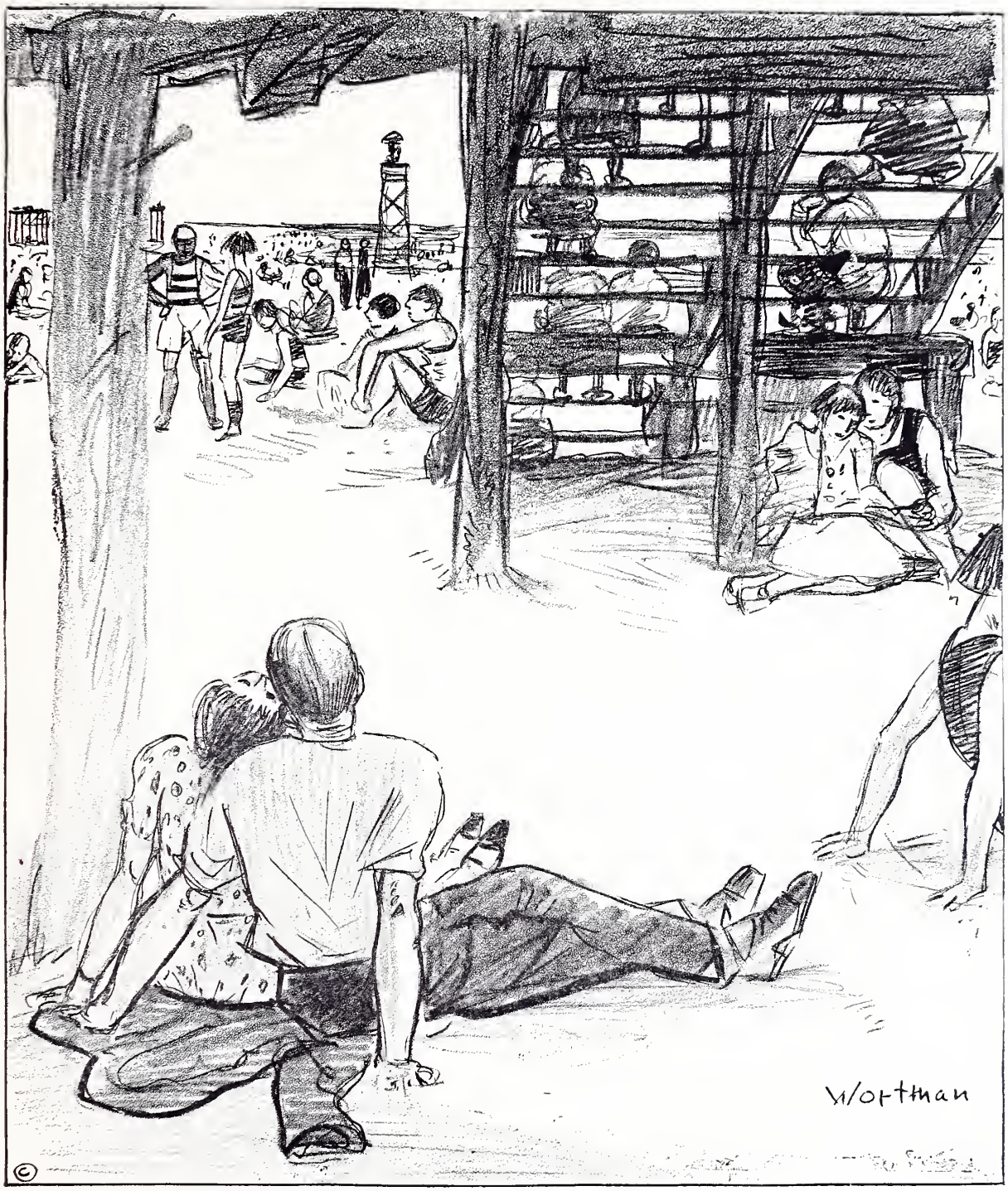
"P. S. It's dead up here and I'm glad I'll be back in the city soon. Your daughter, Jennie."

"Do you s'pose if we was in the country we'd get a better tan?"

"Wilbur, stop that, and chew your gum refined like mama does."

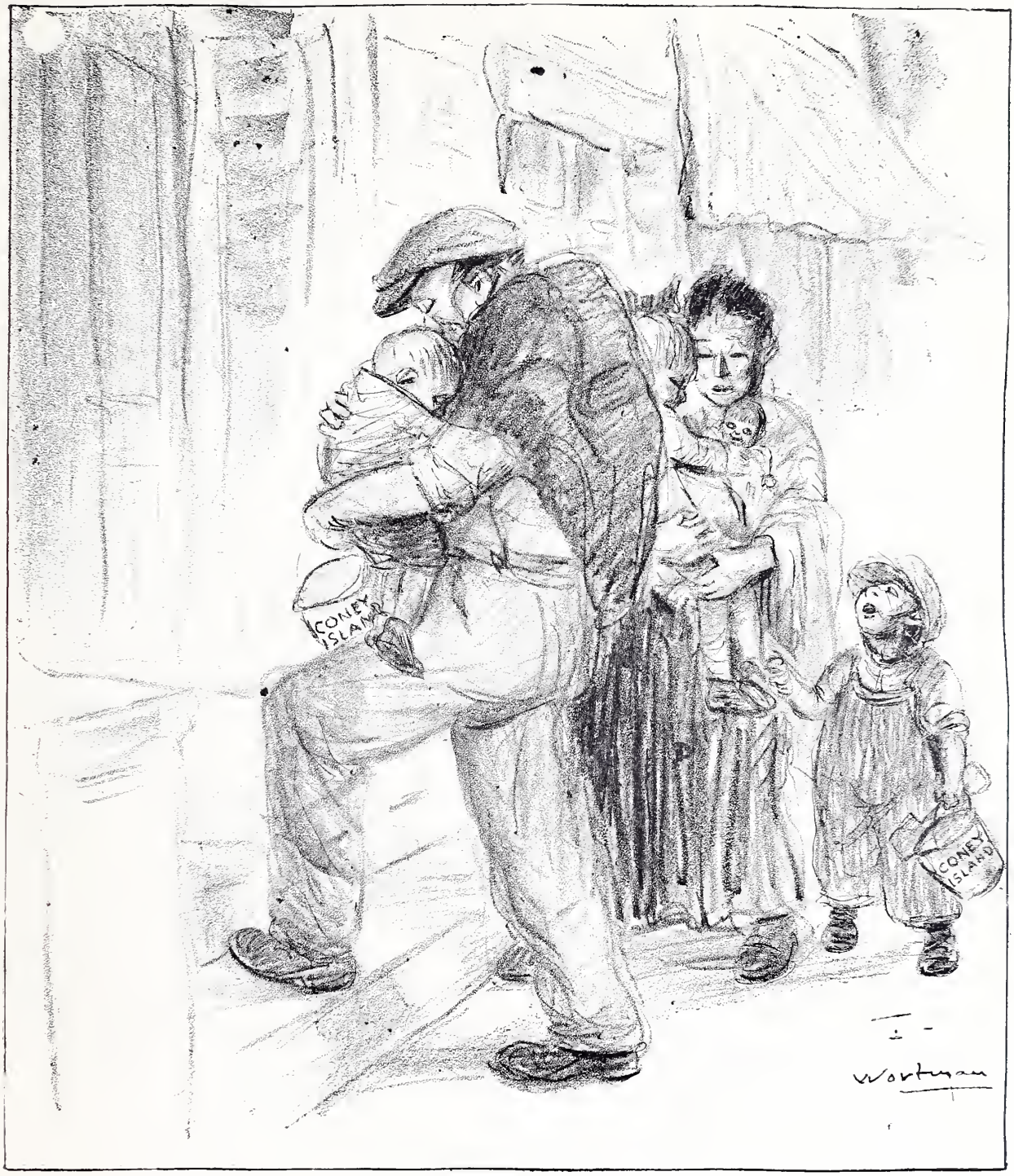


The Wide Open Spaces.

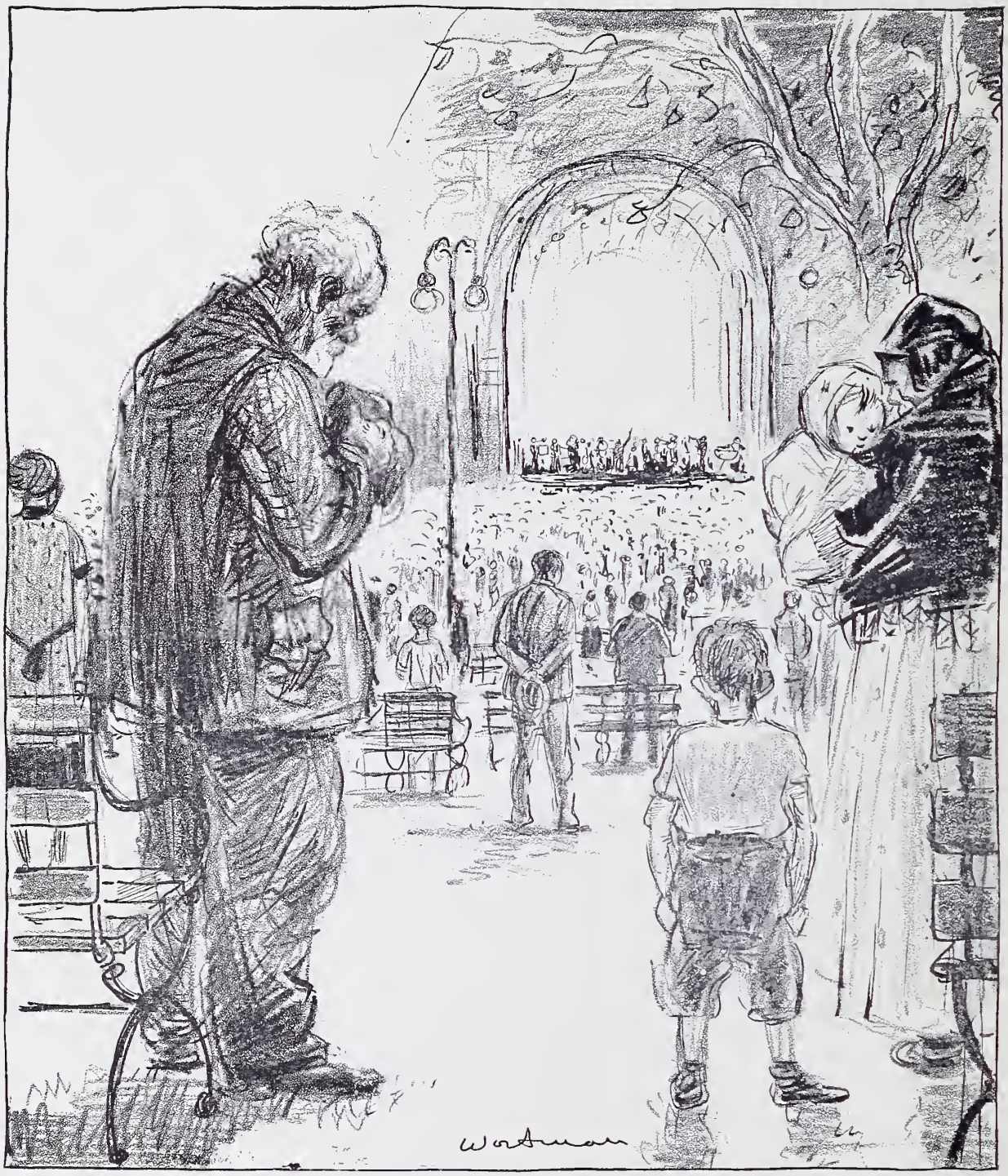


"Isn't it wonderful to be alone together at last?"

"And keep on the shady side 'till you get to the subway, Jim. You ain't as young as you was."



The End of a Perfect Day.



The Star-Spangled Banner.

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